CHORUS

The International Crosby Circle

presents

BING

ONE, TWO, BUTTON Put on your coat and hat;

IF I HAD MY WAY I play a game like wait-ing for you.

THE COUNTRY GIRL

BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

ROAD TO MOROCCO

HERE IS MY HEART

ree, four, heav-en's sake;

ARTHUR'S COURT

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

WAIKIKI WEDDING

BLUE SKIES I count each step you take While I'm wait-ing for you.

ROAD TO UTOPIA

ONLY FOREVER

GOING MY WAY

Edited by

FRANK MURPHY

Hon President: BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
incorporating
THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded 1950

Hon Vice-President: LARRY CROSBY

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Renewals - When your renewal is due, a special renewal notice will be included with your magazine - To ensure continuance of your membership please note your renewal must be received within one month of your receipt of same.

When writing to the clubs officers, please always extend the courtesy of a stamped self addressed envelope.

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Honorary Members include;-
Dorothy Hardiman-former Pres - Mick Drury-Tape Crosby
Stan White-former Publicity Officer

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
Issue No 6 "BING" Apl.25 1967

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EDITORIAL

I was reading Fred Reynold's "Trumpets and Raspberries" again and it struck me that my closing line in my reply "would anyone else like to edit "BING" - might easily be thought to be an indication of sour grapes - let me assure you that this is not the case - but it did give me the afterthought that there might be someone or ones in our group who might like to have a go at editing the club magazine - if so please let me have your views on this important subject.

We really had to close this issue at 62 pages and unfortunately it meant the exclusion of some late material plus the unavailability of space for a special "Letters To The Editor" feature using the many letters received from overseas members, especially from our growing group of Australian boys. And on the Canadian scene, Jean Paul wrote to say that Bing is expected at "Expo 67" and he hopes to host Bing on this event - I've airmailed Jean Paul to keep us fully advised on this great event. Johny Jones sent a late news item that "Radio Scotland" had moved to within a few miles of his home and he was planning big boosts for Bing and the ICC - more from Johny in the next "BING".
Our special thanks too to Brian Pattinson - a great member to have on the ICC team - Brian is using some headed club notepaper to very good affect - I have already had very good replies from people like ATV NETWORK.LONDON..DAVID JACOBS and also from ALLEN EVANS of New Musical Express with the surprising news that he would review Bing's albums in NME if they were sent to him - a turn up for the book indeed - I have compiled a complete file of Brians recent correspondence and plan a special feature in the July 25th issue. Ken Hoyle also kept me busy with some very interesting items, not least of these was an encoureaging letter from Hubert Gregg - we hav'nt missed anything out and look for this and other great surprises next time - before winding up - a word re the club offers - these exist solely as small fund raising services to members - and if a member takes advantage of any of these offers, we expect full complience with the instructions re the payment for same - so please always comply by the clearly stated closing dates we print. Finally, my sincere thanks for so many encouraging letters since the last issue, there's no doubt we are on the right track, but still have a long way to go - till the next issue, and a few more steps in the right direction, best wishes to you and yours.....

CROSBY FILMS ON THE TV SCREEN - Reviewed by LES PHYTHIAN

Not having managed a contribution last time around, and in order to justify my existence as ICC's man of the movies, it seems essential that I should attempt a survey, however brief, of Bing films shown on television since the beginning of the year. And what a spectacular start it's been for Crosby devotees! Here we are with April still playing her fiddle and already no less than six highly enjoyable revivals have come our way via the small screen:-

GOING MY WAY (BBC-1 Television. Sunday, 1st January). An auspicious beginning by any standards. Bing, for the second time on BBC TV, in his 1944 Academy Award winning role as Father O'Malley, with wonderful support from Barry Fitzgerald and a pleasant characteristic performance from Frank McHugh to help this appealing story along. Can't say I've ever been enamoured of the title song, but there was the delicately handled 'Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral' sequence, the infectious 'Swinging On a Star', and the film was distinguished by an excellent script and first-class direction throughout.

SING, YOU SINNERS (BBC-2 Television. Wednesday, 18th January). An unpretentious family-situation tale from 1938 which allowed scope for good characterisations from Bing, Fred MacMurray, a diminutive Donald O'Connor and the always dependable Elizabeth Patterson. Mr. C, in fine voice, had his best opportunity to shine in 'Don't Let That Moon Get Away'; while the melodious 'Pocketful of Dreams' was delivered in spirited fashion by the trio of singing screen brothers. They were also given a nice opportunity, in a short sequence at the start, to harmonize on the hymn 'Shall We Gather At the River?' - and this, of course, was the motion picture that introduced the Frank Loesser-Hoagy Carmichael ditty 'Small Fry' to an unsuspecting but grateful world.

ANYTHING GOES (BBC-2 Television. Wednesday, 15th February). Even the handicap of so clumsy a retitling job as 'TOPS IS THE LIMIT' could do little to disguise the joyful impact of 1936's 'ANYTHING GOES', a thoroughly engaging piece of light entertainment with wonderful songs and a great cast. The delightful Cole Porter numbers were expertly belted out by Ethel Merman, joined unforgettably by Bing for a terrific duet on 'You're the Top'. Bing's own featured songs were all vintage items. What more need one say about the tuneful 'Sailor Beware', the haunting 'My Heart and I' or that marvellous example of quintessential Crosbyana 'Moonburn'? The question is clearly rhetorical - songs of such calibre speak most eloquently for themselves. (When I last saw this movie revived in the commercial cinema the entire 'Moonburn' portion had been 'cut' by some diabolical hand. The cinema has long since disappeared from the scene to be replaced by a block of modern shops, but I've never really forgiven the unidentified perpetrator of that highly uncivilised act!)

BLUE SKIES (BBC-2 Television. Wednesday, 1st March). Another second-time-around item on BBC TV, this deliciously song-packed Irving Berlin musical calls for little in the way of additional comment. Bing, in fine fettle, with Fred Astaire, Joan Caulfield, Billy De Wolfe, Olga San Juan and a wealth of good song-and-dance routines. A surefire winner all the way.

BIRTH OF THE BLUES (BBC-1 Television. Sunday, 2nd April). Given enough space I could write pages about this wonderful film - one of my 'Top Ten'all-time Crosby pictures here again richly proving its unchallengable right to inclusion in such a list. In its carefree, unselfconscious way 'Birth of the Blues' succeeded admirably in recapturing the atmosphere and spirit, the racy, colourful environment surrounding the era when jazz and jazzmen struggled for recognition, often indeed for survival - and succeeded where other, more 'serious' cinematic attempts have failed. Bing and Mary Martin, more than ably assisted by Brian Donlevy, Jack Teagarden and the irresistible Eddie 'Rochester' Anderson, gave superlative performances both musically and dramatically. Anyone who appreciates good jazz would probably agree that this 1941 movie boasted one of the finest sound-tracks ever committed to celluloid. Too many gems to list - vocally and instrumentally - but if anyone knows of a lovelier interpretation of 'Melancholy Baby' than Bing's (supported only by Teagarden's muted trombone and the tasteful guitar of Perry Botkin) I hope they'll let me know about it. Have now seen this 10 times. My thanks to BBC for enabling me to reach double figures!

ROAD TO HONG KONG (Granada Television. Thursday, 13th April). A pleasant surprise to find this, the last of the Bing-Bob Hope 'Road' excursions (filmed at Shepperton in 1961) showing up on TV quite so soon. Musically undistinguished, except for 'Teamwork', but with plenty of laughs along the way and Dorothy Lamour in a short, nostalgic 'guest' sequence with our two heroes.

MEMBERS LETTERS

* Your views makes the news and from
* the ICC postbox we have pleasure in
* printing an especially enlarged
* selection of your letters.....

Members are invited to send their letters and comments on Crosbyana in general to any of the clubs officers and correspondents, as the following selections will indicate, many interesting items can be gleaned from your letters and these are usually of special interest to other members of the club.

Our first letter comes from PETER CARPENTER, I60 Wellington Rd South, Hounslow, Middlesex, England;- dated 30 Jan I967
"Firstly, congratulations on, and thanks for my "BING". First class issue! Excellent material, presentation and tone. All these issues deserve retention for their sheer intrinsic merit and range. Incidentally I thought the Cockermouth edition was outstanding - it is not easy to capture the atmosphere of these events but the ICC writers achieved it - I enjoy all the material and find it very hard to estimate comparitive merit in your contributers. Les Gaylor fascinates me with his technical expertise. I could drop you in an article, if you could use it on BING AND THE STUDENTS or CROSBY AT COLLEGE. I work at a technical college and I've had a chance to play and discuss Crosby recordings with very intelligent students of an age group range I6 to 26. Some of their reactions and comments might prove interesting to your readers."

****by all means Peter, send these articles in, I'm sure they will make very interesting reading.

JOE GIBSON writes from 5 Cedar Cres, Dunston, Gateshead II, England - 20-2-67
"I always enjoy reading "BING" but the latest number is really excellent. It seems to improve with time and it amazes one to think that so much can be written about one person"

Continueing the correspondence with the BBC over the lack of Bing on radio, the latest letter from ARNOLD RECORD, I4 Handsworth Grange Rd, Sheffield I3, England, will be of interest.
"I do hope my letter as printed in the current issue of "BING" will give other members the incentive to write - I have received a reply from the BBC and as promised in my last letter here is what they had to say;

> Dear Mr Record,
> I have been asked to thank you for your letter of Dec I5th and to apologise for the delay in replying.
>
> Your comments have been drawn to the attention of the people immediately concerned with our gramophone record programmes, who ask me to say that although Bing Crosby is of course very much liked, he is only one of a number of artists with this kind of enthusiastic following. Comparisons are perhaps invidious, but it is felt that more listeners want to hear, say, Sinatra, and other artists, than want to hear Bing Crosby. I am enclosing one of our audience research leaflets, which you may be interested to read, and we appreciate your writing again to let us have your views.
>
> Signed Sheelagh Mullins - Programmes Correspondence Section.

Arnold continues;-
"So there we are, let's hope all members will make the effort and write to the BBC voicing their dissapproval of the above views. I think members will agree with me that the amount of pop music we get on the Light programme is getting out of all proportion. I have noticed for example that these last few weeks on Sunday mornings the BBC have extended the time of "Easy Beat" from I0.30-II.30am to I0.00-II.30am and on Saturday afternoons they have just introduced another new pop programme from 4pm-5pm called "Where It's At"

NINIAN FAICHNEY writes from 20 Foundry Str, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
"Issue number 5 of "BING arrived today Jan 25th and I have spent a very enjoyable couple of hours going through the many pages and there is no doubt there are many chaps in the club who can really express themselves very well in all the various articles, and most are worth reading several times"

each issue of the magazine is sure to bring a number of appreciative letters from a select circle of correspondents, one of these is BRENDA MILES who writes from 35 Borough Rd, Kingston upon Thames, England. Feb 2nd 1967
"The current magazine was up to it's usual standard and made enjoyable reading. I must say also it's nice to find one's name mentioned - this makes you really feel part of the club".

***of course it does Brenda - members letters are a very important part of any magazine, the more we get, the more we like them.

JACK SOUTHER writes from 2011-44th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94116. USA
"I received issue number 5 of "BING" and would say the overall quality is improving, which is encouraging - I am enclosing an ad which I'd like run in the next issue"

***happy to print the ad Jack and appreciative of your comments on the improvement of the mag - as I have indicated in previous journals we do not aim at a 100% collectors service - the C.C. is doing a 100% job in that direction and if international Crosby Collectors like Jack Souther can find subscription to "BING" a worthwhile investment, this is good enough for us - our 'mixed bag' as it were, appears to have quite an appeal with the vastly differing potential of the Bing Crosby 'fan' collector' admirer.

The following letter would appear to echoe the above sentiments and though, as we suspected, Carole did'nt join the club, but though we could'nt send her a big coloured photo of Bing to frame, we did send her a packet of BINGPICS with our compliments - here's the letter which came from Miss CAROLE KEETON, 127 Woodfield Rd, Broxtowe Est, Nottingham, England. which arrived complete with love and kisses.

"Just a few lines to let you know that I'd like to join the Bing Crosby fan club, and also a big coloured photo of Bing Crosby so that I can frame it. I like to see Bing on television, think he's smashing and great too. Could you give him my kindest regards and best wishes as well please - that's all for now until I hear from you sometime."

PS please write back soon Yours sincerely Carole.

FRED ROBINSON writes from 42 Wyndham Ave, Liverpool 14, Lancs, England.
"As you are aware I recently enrolled as a member of the ICC and have to-date received two of your excellent quarterly issues of "BING" which help very much indeed to keep one posted on the latest activities of Bing - I was very grateful for the information concerning the Glasgow Record stores splendid special offer of LP's from the BING'S HOLLYWOOD sets, of which I duly took advantage, thus adding to my collection of the 'masters' works, I am also interested in the photo listings of BINGPICS and hope shortly to send for a selection. My best wishes for the continued success of the ICC, it's good value for a great entertainer."

COLIN PUGH writes from 29 Picton Str, Montpelier, Bristol 6, England.
"I am enclosing further bids in the Jan auction and also want to acknowledge safe receipt of the spare pages of Les Gaylor's information corner, as I had requested. Thank you also for page 23 of the movie file and am glad you propose to make spare copies of the movie file available also"

VICTOR GILMORE writes from 88 Coronation Rd, Wold Rd. Hull, England
"As usual, I'm borrowing the office typwriter to drop you a few further lines, mainly, of course, to let you know that the January issue of "BING" has been pleasurably and safely received, and to send my very many thanks for another splendid issue.
This straight away brings me to the question of trying to list the items in the first-three order of preference. This, I find, practically impossible. To digress slightly - I've often tried to imagine the eight records I'd choose on the Roy Plumley DESERT ISLAND DISCS programme, and I usually end up in a mazy daze of confusion. Whichever ones I start off by choosing, I always think of the many others I could'nt 'do without' - and so it goes on.
When, therefore, I tried to sort out which of the many and varied articles in BING that I would place in the order of First, Second, and Third etc, I finished up in the same frame of mind as when trying to pick my eight Desert Island Discs - there's something in ALL the articles and contents that have their own appeal, and I could'nt in all fairness and honesty say which articles I preferred, or which I would'nt miss if left out.
So there it is, not very helpful, I'm afraid, so far as your ballot is concerned, but at least I am being honest and unbiased in my assessment of the many, many pleasurably interesting subjects and items that go to the making of the most, and best, of "BING"
There was just one occasion when I think I may have felt"better off" if I had'nt known about it, and that was whilst I was reading all about the meetings that you and the other fortunate club members had with Bing at Cockermouth recently. I must admit that, having been a Bing fan from as far back as 1935 (I was a member of the original Bing fan club that was organised in 1935 by a Mr Ted Mole, now living, I think, at Ilford, but who used to live in Hull way back...) I did feel that I had missed out on a wonderful opportunity to seal that 30 odd years admiration Please don't get me wrong, I know full well that it was only possible to organise for a limited number to meet Bing, and whilst I would so much have liked to be one of them, I do appreciate it may not have been possible for various reasons. A case of so near and yet so far.
I'm taking this opportunity of sending my renewal for another years subscription to the ICC, and if I get half as much pleasure from the coming issues as I have ha from the previous ones, I shall be very well satisfied!"

As always, my Very Best Wishes to you and yours and to the continuing success of the I.C.C.

***It would be interesting Victor if Mr Mole could be located, just to find out his reaction to present day Crosbyana - and if your own very interesting letter is any guide, it's quite possible we'd find a Mr Mole who is still as dedicated to Bing as he was in the mid 30's - your kind com ents re the Poll and the magazine are very much appreciated and encourageing to us.

ERIC MOORE writes from 29 Cleopas Str, Liverpool 8, England. 20-Feh-1967
"It is just about a year ago since I first wrote to enquire about joining the Crosby Circle and you were kind enough to send me details together with the Jan 1966 issue of the club magazine - due to illness and a change in occupation it has taken this long while to write back, but I am now enclosing the enrollment fee and hope you will still consider me for membership - I wonder if you have back numbers of the club magazine as I would like to purchase these also if they are available. I shall await your reply with interest and next time I write I will give you details of my collection and perhaps some of my views on how to improve and perhaps enlarge our membership.

***Its a pleasure to welcome you to the club Eric and hope you enjoyed the back number copies of BING sent as requested - your latest letter is also to hand and we look forward to hearing more about some of those great tracks you have in your extensive collection - we'd be happy to hear about any ideas you have for assisting us in our development of the clubs membership

continuing MEMBERS LETTERS

A note from our old pal KEN MC MANUS enclosed the original sheet music for one of Bing's great vocals of the 50's "A MARSHMALLOW WORLD - we hope to use this eventually as a stencil for the magazine Ken and want you to know how much we do appreciate your kind thought in sending this.

****

Jack Shaw Presents;-

SCRAPBOOK CORNER.....THE SUNDAY EXPRESS. JULY 22. I945

SPECIAL FEATURE STORY

He Was 'Thumbing' His Way West Twenty Years Ago

BING, THE VOICE OF GOLD by Guy Austin

Sunday Express Hollywood Correspondent

In the autumn of I925 two young men stood at the roadside in San Fernando Valley and thumbed in the general direction of Los Angeles.

For days they had honked, spluttered, and steamed their way southwards in an ancient Ford they had bought in Spokane, Washington, for £I0. Their original goal had been the fabulous Hollywood. In the heart of San Fernando Valley the Ford died. The pair left it at the roadside, and then hiked, footsore and practically broke, the rest of their journey.

These two young men were one Harry Lillis Crosby, Jun, and one Al Rinker. Both were musicians-one of them, Crosby, a singer of sorts. Both had been members in Spokane of Rinkers "Musicaladers" a seven piece band that odd-jobbed round Spokane's clubs and schools.

This Crosby had developed quite a talent for hotlicks on the drums, with a bit of chorusing thrown in. Rinker was the pianist. Of the pair Rinker had the better voice on accepted standards. Crosby had a broken voice-he was never sure whether it was tenor or baritone.

So 20 years ago arrived in Hollywood Crosby and Rinker in search o. fame and fortune It is one of those strange quirks of fate that it was through Rinkers sister, a well known radio singer at the time Mildred Bailey, that this broken down pair of musicians got their first job in Hollywood - in Mike Lyman's cafe - and that of the two today Crosby is reputed to be the richest man in California.

SAID TO BE WORTH £3,000,000

It was recently estimated that he is worth Three Million Pounds while Rinker is still unknown, except in show business circles back in Spokane.

Today the name of Bing Crosby is better known throughout the world probably than that of the President of the United States.

Crosby and Rinker, from their first chance in Hollywood cafes, went into vaudeville, toured Californian music halls, and it was while they were playing in San Francisco that Paul Whiteman saw their act, liked it, and signed them up. Giving the pair a third singer, Harry Barris, they became known as Whiteman's Rhythm Boys.

STUNNED THE FILM COLONY

They toured with Whiteman for three years and returned to Hollywood for Whiteman's film The King Of Jazz. During this sojourn in Hollywood Bing Crosby met promising young actress Dixie Lee, who completely stunned the film colony on September 29, I930 by marrying the obscure rhythm boy, Crosby. Hollywood said this Crosby would never amount to anything, but all hoped he would - for Dixie's sake. The Rhythm Boys sang at Hollywood's swank Ambassador Hotel and were a hit for months. Mack Sennett hired Crosby for some shorts. This led to gramophone records, and, somehow, the gravel throated, boo-boo-deboo singers records sold like wildfire. Then the family of Crosby much in the background hithertoo, sat up and took notice. Bing's elder brother

Everett Crosby, who had followed Bing southwards to become a motor car salesman felt that his little brother had something. He financed Bing to New York and got him a contract for radio work.

NATION WIDE HIT OVERNIGHT

Bing became a nation wide hit overnight. He was signed for the mammoth Paramount Theatre, remained there for 20 weeks and the Par mount Studios finally gave the up and coming crooner a top role in the film The Big Broadcast of 1932. The rest is history in the excessive tradition of Hollywood. Today Bing is big business in the American big style. Over the years his income from films, radio, recording, and sundries has averaged £125,000. He is Bing Crosby Incorporated. It is a family affair. Bing earns the big money, Everett manages it, brother Larry handles Bing's personal affairs and publicity. Bing's father, Pop Crosby, formerly of a Spokane pickle factory, who wanted his son Harry to become a lawyer, and is now glad he did not, handles the fan mail and bank accounts. In spite of all this legend about Bing's fortune, brother Larry, who should know, states emphatically that Bing is not today and never has been even a dollar millionaire.

Today Crosby Incorporated owns the Crosby Research Foundation which, with plant in Pasadena California, develops the inventions of inventors who cannot get in elle where and operates the major foundry in Puente, California.

BOUGHT RACE HORSES AND RACECOURSE

This million dollar concern also owns apartment houses, the Crosby buildi g on the Sunset Strip where Bing has his business headquarters, oil wells, prize fighters, one third of a motion picture company, Rainbow Productions, which has just finished Bing's latest picture with Ingrid Bergman "The Bells Of St Mary's". The corporation is also part owner of a cattle raising company in South America, and it raises beef on the Crosby ranch in Nevada. Not his least acquisition are racehorses, and the race track at Del Mar, California. This last alone emphasises the Crosby luck. In 1937 Bing bought practically for publicity purposes a nag at Santa Anita called Zombie for £200. Then the fever set in. In a few months Bing was buying brood mares, and blue blood colts at the racing sales. To house these he bought for £10,000 a ranch at Sante Fe Springs, California, near San Diego. His final set up was the building of a million dollar racecourse at Del Mar of which he is president. Where the turf meets the surf, as the adverts have it, it is a small beautiful course within smell of the ocean. This month the course is having the greatest season of it's history attracting 10,000 people daily with a daily tote to handle half a million dollars.

WON ACADEMY AWARD

Bing is now 44. He has earned millions, spent millions, invested millions. He never seems busy, but works strenuously although leaving the business details to his family partners. He is notoriously sloppy in his dress - though "comfortable" might be Bing's way of putting it.

Bing won the Academy Award for his part of the priest in "Going My Way" but he still insists he was playing himself. On the radio people like his voice, for his greatest gift is a glowing, smoothing, always agreeable voice that does'nt jar. Musicians say he sells a song better than any other singer.

SUNDAY EXPRESS JULY 22 - 1945

**********END**********

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Have YOU tried ANCHOR - THE CREAM OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER - BOB ROBERTS of BOBS STORES recommends this highly - Bob must,for a note sent recently to enclose some cash Bob was sending on behalf of American collector Jack Souther to cover subs and an order for BINGPICS also carried a big ad for this much sought after product - IF YOU LIKE ANCHOR, then HEAD FOR BOB'S STORES - No price per pound is available, but you can we assure you be always assured of a fair deal at BOB'S STORES..... POUNDS OF ANCHOR NEW ZEALAND BUTTER MAILED TO ANY ADDRESS IN THE WORLD - WRITE NOW FOR PRICES AND POSTAL COSTS to BOB'S STORES, THOROLD ROAD, CHATHAM, ENGLAND.

A DECADE OF BING CROSBY ALBUMS..Part 4.....

by....Henry Hollow....Tasmania....Australia....

To wind up this series and remain within the scope of a decade all we have left to look back on are Bing's appearances with the Warner Bros labels, stemming from his own Project Records. In taking another look at the vast array of singalongs released during this era, we can only wonder at what might have been recorded if Bing had not joined in with Mitch. Admittedly at this time Tin Pan Alley was not turning out very much which Bing could have used and to survive on releases of old songs yet another twist had to be given to his repertoire.

JOIN IN AND SING WITH BING (33 GANG SONGS)
In this first album some effort was made to add something the others had not got and it is still listenable.

GANG SONGS and MORE GANG SONGS
The idea here seemed to be quantity and not quality, in fact it looked as if Bing would end up just singing the titles. All these titles played havoc with my index system but have not overworked my record player.

ON THE HAPPY SIDE
A final attempt was made to recapture the sound of the first issue. But by now sing-along had run it's race, and no one now cares whether this album succeeded.

I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
This reminds me of the song line "Is'nt it a shame that Christmas comes but once a year". At last we had a departure from the old carols and their imitations. The music and its reproduction are as good as any, and when Christmas comes around again this is the album to give a bit of a whirl.

RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS
When Bing moved over to the Reprise label it looked as if his name and not his talents were being exploited. And yet among all the seond fiddling he did on Sinatra's selections he was sent solo among a variety of Hawaiian ballads. With this kind of music way past it's peak this appears a hopeless task. But with the aid of Nelson Riddle we can enjoy something perhaps best described as escapist.

And so having escaped from all those various albums in which Bing attempted to ring many of the changes, it would be a pity to spoil it by going on to reiterate recent contributions to other Reprise albums. There were some good bits among the welter of other sounds. Let us hope that future albums will not be entirely Bing, submerged in a mixture of other peoples gimmicks.

END

BING CROSBY SINGLES STILL AVAILABLE FROM BRITISH DECCA
according to information received John Bird, Information Section of The British Decca Record Company, by Wallsend, Northumberland, member, Billy Weir, the following Bing Crosby singles are still available in the Decca catalogue;=

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT..WHITE CHRISTMAS.....03384
ADESTE FIDELES..SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT.....03929
AROUND THE WORLD..(side two Victor Young orchestral version only...05674
HAPPY BIRTHDAY-AULD LANG SYNE..HOME SWEET HOME.....05840
WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT..GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART.....05929
MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY..I APOLOGISE.....05934

copies of any of these will be mailed anywhere in the world - send direct to the secretary of the ICC enclosing IO/- (£1.50cents) for each single required

** FLASHBACK TO AN OLD MOVIE
** from The Motion Picture Exhibitor - April 22. I959
** From the Don Woolland files;
****

The above issue of THE MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITOR carried some interesting gen on the Fox film SAY ONE FOR ME which along with Bing, starred DEBBIE REYNOLDS, and ROBERT WAGNER.

This issue displayed a three page spread designed to sell this picture to film exhibitors who were told to 'Get ready for the entertainment of the year' - at the time of this films release in England your editor was assistant manager of one of Newcastle on Tyne's largest cinema, the 2,000 seater Essoldo and it was with particular delight that I noted the booking department which then was committed to all of the Fox studio output had scheduled SAY ONE FOR ME for a week at this top Newcastle venue. The film, as I recall proved, if not an outstanding box office draw, a bigger than average week with a take in excess of £I,400 - the big Fox's like THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN or RIVER OF NO RETURN would usually gross in excess of £2,000 and show a retain format - SAY ONE FOR ME, though it did not prove to be the entertainment of the year, came in during a veryhot summer week and everyone was gratified with the result - many other greats showed up pretty badly as I recall, and Bing showed that even at this late stage in his movie career he was still a force to be reckoned with, and his delightful vocal on THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS showed that some of Bing's later movie songs did have some merit - the movie score generally was considered poor by Crosby fans in general and a pretty poor film version of I COULD'NT CARE LESS. did'nt help.

20CENTURY FOX had plenty of faith in the Crosby name and on page I8 of the MPE they announced

£I,000,000 TO SELL"SAY ONE FOR ME"

> NEW YORK - Following a home office rough cut screening of 20th Century Fox's SAY ONE FOR ME, last fortnight for company executives, Charles Enfeld, vice-president, said that it was decided to spend over One million dollars to launch the Frank Tashlin picture with the campain to start six weeks prior to a June release. Plans call for a national magazine campaign - the most extensive music promotion in 20th Fox history; a TV trailer featuring Bing Crosby, and a series of guest appearances by stars on national TV shows etc.

FILM DEALS THAT DID'NT GELL:

In the same issue of MPE 20th Century Fox announced that in May I959 DICK POWELL would go before the camera's to produce the cinemascope production of BACHELOR'S BABY starring BING CROSBY.

A few years later, on a personal tape message to club members, Bing spoke of a movie role involving a little Pueoto Rican boy - Bing said "we've got the boy" .....But we did'nt get the film.

At Cockermouth in September I966 Bing again spoke to club members about movie roles and this time, a movie with the WALT DISNEY studios was mentioned, at the time of going to press - we've heard nothing in the way of celluliod Mr 'C'

Whilst on the subject of movies we did'nt get, what about the songs Bing did'nt sing - ALAN LURIE has sent in some news that he recently obtained a quad crown poster from Eros Film Co of BLUE SKIES - it reads as follows

BING SINGS I6 GREAT SONG HITS INCLUDING....BLUE SKIES, HEAT WAVE HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN, A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY; PUTTING ON THE RITZ SOME SUNNY DAY..... as Alan states, Bing did not sing the titles he underlined on his advice. and we recall a similar and perhaps more blatent case of false and misleading reference to songs in Crosby films - anyone recall the great headlines that 20 CENTURY FOX displayed on the 'MUSICLESS' HIGH TIME.....

-0000-

CROSBY - A FOLK HERO IN AN OLD SWEATER

by Alex Barris-Telegram News Service..

This excellent article reached us from CANADA via a friend of British member KEN HOYLE to whom we are indebted

Not even Mom's apple pie excepted, has there been a more enduring or endearing symbol of twentieth century America than Bing Crosby.

From the mid thirties through the war years and for a decade longer, he was probably the best known entertainer in the world since Charlie Chaplin. Today, approaching 62, he is a kind of elder statesman of the super-stars, his appearances infrequent but still sparking excitement among his millions of admirers.

Crosby's autobiography, published a dozen years ago, was titled CALL ME LUCKY and he could hardly have chosen a better title - not only because there's truth in it, but because it reflects exactly the image of Crosby so many peolpe have.

Crosby had everything going for him to make him the great American folk hero; Irish, Catholic, of a lower-middle-class family, a college man who did'nt get a degree, lover of sports, a fellow who prefers an old sweater to a dinner jacket, a movie star who projected wholesomeness, a self made multi-millionaire, a family man, an Academy Award winner, and most o f all a man who sings so easily and naturally that he leaves people with the vague feeling that he's not a professional entertainer but just a guy who likes to sing.

Crosby fans never rioted, nor swooned, nor screamed, nor fainted. Critics neither raved about him nor tore him apart. Everybody, it seems, found him as welcome and comfortable as an old pair of slippers.

The Crosby movie career has been remarkable in that it chalked up some records that seem in no danger of being toppled. Of the 20 years during which Crosby flourished, he was on the list of TOP TEN BOX OFFICE STARS for I4 years; For 5 successive years, I945-I948, he topped the list. No one else has done that. SHIRLEY TEMPLE topped the list four times. MICKEY ROONEY three, JOHN WAYNE twice, BOB HOPE once.

Crosby has made over 50 movies, II of which have returned to their distributers at least $4,000,000 each. His most successful was WHITE CHRISTMAS - I954 which earned $I2,000,000; next was THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S at $8,000,000.

Altogether, his movies have returned more than $I50,000,000- far greater a total than any other movie stars total in the history of films.

The plots of Bing's movies - the ones that helped create the Crosby image - were usually simple, naive and carefree, Bing was usually a likeable ne-er-do-well who loved to loaf and sing what Tin Pan Alley veterans call "philosophy songs" like " A POCKETFULL OF DREAMS and PENNIES FROM HEAVEN.

With few exceptions, Bing's leading ladies in those days were nonentities - sweet, girl next door types who were suddenly elevated to temporary fame opposite Crosby and more often than not faded into obscurity a movie or two later; MARY CARLISLE, MAJORIE REYNOLDS, SHIRLEY ROSS, ELLEN DREW, COLEEN GRAY, LOUISE CAMPBELL. Their names are as hard to remember as their faces; Their main function was to look pretty whilst Bing sang to them

Crosby the actor showed some signs of developing as early as I938 in SING YOU SINNERS, in which FRED MACMURRAY and DONALD O' CONNOR played his brothers. Any Crosby buff will tell you this was one of the best of Crosby movies.

He won his Oscar in I944 after director writer Leo McCarey pursuaded him to play a priest in GOING MY WAY - "I had reservations about playing Father O' Malley", Crosby has said, "but Leo Mc Carey had such a great track record I decided to try it.

GOING MY WAY made Crosby bigger than ever, led to several relatively serious roles; THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S, [illegible] COUNTRY GIRL, MAN ON FIRE.

Crosby does a few films now. But he likes television, especially shows like THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE, where he can be the light hearted singer and casual clown of old. He has also taped a special with DANNY THOMAS called THE ROAD TO THE LEBANON, and another called THE HISTORY OF RADIO. and his name and voice are prominent in the new Cinerama movie RUSSIAN ADVENTURE, although Crosby hardly appears in it.

The only recordings he makes now are LP's and not too many of those. "There's no future for me in records" he said last year.

No future, perhaps, but what a past; Over the years he has had some 20 records that went over the I,000,000 sales mark, some have gobe substantially higher like SILENT NIGHT, and his top record has never been approached in sales by anyone else; WHITE CHRISTMAS has sold more than 23,000,000 copies, and each year it adds more to that total.

Off the screen, Crosby has neither courted publicity nor made a fetish of avoiding it, like Garbo, or pretending to like Nureyev. In his 30 years as a star, he's never been involved in a scandal, never said anything controversial, never taken part in any publicity stunt.

Having sown his wild oats in the Whiteman band days, he settled down with Dixie Lee Crosby, who gladly gave up her budding career as a singer to be his for the rest of her life. She bore him four sons, saw them grown up before she died in I952

While Bing married again in I957, his bride, Kathryn Grant, was another budding actress who was content to trade a career for life as Mrs Crosby.

Bing and Kathryn live in San Francisco now with their three young children, Harry 6, Mary Francis, 5, and Nathaniel, 3. Some of the year is spent in another Crosby home in Mexico, and Bing jets to Hollywood whenever he has work to do.

Although Crosby was always well paid for his work, most of his films were made in the days before stars got percentages of the profits - they got a straight (though fat) salary andthat was that.

But Crosby has always been known as a shrewd investor (he has even been referred to as miserly, but that's probably an exaggeration) His Crosby Enterprises bought into oil wells, real estate, frozen foods, Decca Records, a baseball team (The Pittsburgh Pirates) and other money making ventures.

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* --END-- *
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* INFORMATION CORNER *
* **********from THE LESLIE GAYLOR FILES *
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A MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY
The recordings of the 49 songs with Bing and accompanied by THE BUDDY COLE TRIO as featured on the set of 5 LP's under this title and issued by Decca were recorded during sessions on 2I April I954, 24 April I954, 3 May I954, I6 June I954 and I9 June I954.

THE FIRST SNOWFALL
This is a very fine Bing recording that was never released in Britain. It was recorded by CBS Radio with Orchestra directed by BUDDY COLE at a session dated 22 Nov I955 along with the following songs, and American Decca Master No's were allocated as follows;-

CHRISTMAS IS A COMIN'	L8805
THE FIRST SNOWFALL	L8806
THE POSSIBILITIES THERE	L8807
THE NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS	L8808

cont on page I4

continueing INFORMATION CORNER.....

FILM..WHITE CHRISTMAS
The songs as follows from the Paramount film were recorded as follows;-

THE OLD MAN	I8 Sept I953	GEE I WISH I WAS BACK IN THE ARMY	23 Oct I953
MANDY	I8 Sept I953	BLUE SKIES	7 Dec I953

FILM..ANYTHING GOES
The songs as follows from the soundtrack were recorded as follows;-

YOU GOTTA GIVE THE PEOPLE HOKE	9 April I955
BLOW GABRIEL BLOW	I June I955
A SECOND HAND TURBAN AND A CHRYSTAL BALL	23 May I955

GONE FISHIN' - OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE
These two songs were taken from a Bing radio show of 27 April I95I and the reason that they have a difference of 7 Matrix No's - L6262 L6254 between them is that they were obviously left over numbers assigned on other dates but which were not used, and later utilized as odd numbers for the above 2 recordings, Information from an American Decca note.

TRUST YOUR DESTINY TO A STAR
This recording made by USA Decca was never released in Britain. It was recorded at a session 27 Dec I957 along with that fine song GIGI, song originally was used for a USA Television show ALADIN and was written by Cole Porter.

PROJECT RECORDS INC
This small company which was set up around I959 became a part of BING CROSBY ENTERPRISES of which Bing was a part owner. It had only a short existance with the above, and the late Mr SIMON RADY controlled the recordings. Following are the Bing ones he handled as President of the company;

HOW THE WEST WAS WON
Two LP set recorded at UNITED RECORDERS The Bing tracks were recorded on the 20-2I-22-24th of July I959

JOIN BING AND SING ALONG
Recorded at UNITED RECORDERS and dubbed over chorus by Bing Crosby on December I6-I7 I959

IOI GANG SONGS
Originally released in a two album package recorded at UNITED RECORDERS and dubbed over chorus tracks by Bing Crosby on December 20-23-27-28 I960 albums have since been released singly

EL SENOR BING
Recorded at UNITED RECORDERS with BILLY MAY conducting the orchestra, on 22-6-60

BING AND SATCHMO
Recorded at UNITED RECORDERS with LOUIS ARMSTRONG and BILLY MAY conducting the orchestra, on 28 June I960

INCURABLY ROMANTIC/THE SECOND TIME AROUND
These two songs, released on a single were recorded at UNITED RECORDERS on 25 August I960. The first was featured in the film LET'S MAKE LOVE. The latter in the Bing Crosby film HIGH TIME

I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
This album was recorded at RADIO RECORDERS HOLLYWOOD on October 5 I962. Music tracks recorded on 23-7-I962 and 25-7-I962 were dubbed over by Bing.

BING CROSBY ON THE HAPPY SIDE
Basic accompaniment track recorded in London during April I962 and dubbed over by Bing Crosby at UNITED RECORDERS HOLLYWOOD on 30 April I962

CHILDRENS CAMP SINGALONG WITH BING
Existing Bing Crosby tracks dubbed over childrens chorus tracks on May I7-I8-I9th I96I - Recorded at RCA Studios USA

UNISSUED ALBUM
The album titles which I gave in the last issue of "BING" (25th Jan I967) were recorded at WESTERN RECORDERS by Bing Crosby on 2I-26 June I962. He dubbed over the basic accompaniment tracks which were recorded in London in April I962

HOLIDAY IN EUROPE
This album was recorded at two studios. 4 tracks CEST SI BON/MORGEN/UNDER PARIS SKIES/MELANCHOLIE were recorded on Oct I5 I960 at Decca's West Hampstead Studios London with Malcolm Lockyer conducting

the orchestra. At a later date 8 musical tracks were sent out from England and Bing dubbed over these tapes on May 9th I96I at RADIO RECORDERS HOLLYWOOD. A title suggested for this album was BING IN EUROPE. .....end of data on Project Records.

ICHABOD - THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
During the making of these recordings which originally came out on 2-78 rpm discs, Bing sang short extracts of the three songs, namely, THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN, KATRINA and ICHABOD. He also recorded the same three songs in a normal manner, but only one song ever came out in Britain as a single side, this was KATRINA. the other two titles, ICHABOD and THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN are currently available on American Decca Vocalion (cheap) label under the title BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN and can be obtained from TRANSATLANTIC RECORD AGENCY, 5 Tara Str, Dublin, Eire.

BING-THE MASTER
Of the many letts I've had from American Decca in the past, one pleased me very much indeed. Part of it reads as follows

> "All of us here at the Decca Studios consider Bing the "MASTER" and our studios are at his disposal"

ANGELS OF MERCY
For the benefit of our lesser informed members this song was written by IRVING BERLIN and dedicated to The American Red Cross Nurses. Funnily enough, Bing's recording of it only came out in Australia (Decca)

DEAR FRIEND
This recording by Bing was only ever issued in Britain (Brunswick

BUT NOT FOR ME
This recording by Bing was only ever released in India (Columbia)

HOW THE WEST WAS WON - Two album set
Prior to the release of these LP's in Britain, a note from the RCA division of the Decca Record Company stated that the 24 page booklet to this set of records would be available here with the British release as per the American release - A further note said that after a lenthy discusion it has been decided to publish only a short synopsis of the booklet issued in America, which does in fact give a short but nevertheless interesting history of the West.

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* QUERY CORNER *
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Some years ago I was in the happy position of having a wonderful contact at American Decca's New York offices - one Howard M Cara. He even used to stay behind after hours to get me the gen and he wrote me the following on Sept I6 I952

> "In particular reference to your inquirey re, if the sides GONE FISHIN' and OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE by Crosby were recorded from his April 27 I95I Radio program. Our files do not give the exact source for our versions of these selections. It is assumed that they were cut in our West Coast Studios. However through some looking into this matter I find that Bing did program the selections on his April 27 broadcast"

This is where I often ask myself - Was the April 27 I95I broadcast Pre-recorded, if so, when were the two songs actually recorded, or was the transmission a live broadcast ------ A week later on Sept 24 Mr Caro wrote.

> "Bing has made no recordings of JAMBOREE JONES and THE DIXIELAND BAND on April 8 I950 with Ella Fitzgerald"

GOLDEN RECORDS ALBUM LP79
This album by Bing from the Golden Records Childrens Series consists of NEVER BE AFRAID (THE EMPERORS NEW CLOTHES) and JACK BE NIMBLE (MOTHER GOOSE SONGS) and is still available

cont on page I6

** continueing
** LESLIE GAYLOR'S
** information corner
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JAZZ AT THE PHILARMONIC INC VERVE RECORDS
Soon after Bing mad the album BING SINGS WHILST BREGMAN SWINGS for VERVE, I received the following letter from them;-

"Verve has no immediate recording session scheduled for Mr Crosby; However it is quite likely that Mr Crosby will be doing another Verve LP in the not too distant future"

if only he had

SHOW TUNES
Three other show tunes worth getting hold of are STAY WELL and THE LITTLE GREY HOUSE both from the musical show LOST IN THE STARS. Master Numbers L5206 and L5207 both recorded Nov I6 I949.
JUST MY LUCK from the musical play NELLIE BLY, Master Number W73297 recorded Jan 22, I946 - the backing is YOU MAY NOT LOVE ME which is a non show tune and both songs were written by JIMMY VAN HEUSEN and JOHNNY BURKE. The later was also recorded on Jan 22 I946, Master Number W73296

THE YODEL BLUES
This Bing recording I have often felt would have been a hit in Britain, and is a view shared by celebrated collectors over here. It was never released because it was featured in a Broadway show TEXAS LIL' DARLIN - Besides a limited range of yodelin Bing puts on a great 'country style' voice.
on the reverse side is THE BIG MOVIE SHOW IN THE SKY from the same show and the RUSS MORGAN ORCHESTRA supplies the backing. Master numbers are L5293 and L5294 respectively and both were recorded 23 Dec I949. The songs were written by JOHNNY MERCER along with ROBERT EMMETT DOLAN.

WELL DID YOU EVAH
In my "Information Corner" last issue probably due to a misprint the Master No for the 78 rpm selection of this song should read Master No I572I.

In my "Crosby Comment" feature last issue, Frank gives S7953 against the songs EMBRASSE MOI BIEN and MADEMOISELLE DE PARIS - I'm afraid I do not know why he inserted this number ----my apologies Les - Ed.

THOUGHTFUL EXPRESSION
On my telling Bing that in Britain there were many dedicated collectors of his recordings the "old master" gave a thoughtful glance towards the ceiling and commented "I'm sure glad I made all those records" (Savoy Hotel London Oct I5 I960

THOUGHTFUL GIFT No I
The postman arrived at my door one day in Oct I960 - his reason, to deliver to me a letter from BING and LARRY CROSBY - inside was a cheque for I00 DOLLARS (nearly £36) The cheque simply states (FOR BING CROSBY INTEREST)

THOUGHTFUL GIFT No 2
The postman handed me a surprise package in June I957 - inside an autographed, de-luxe copy of CALL ME LUCKY from the greatest himself..

THOUGHTFUL GIFT No 3
A man I corresponded with was Mr Milton Gabler, Vice President of American Decca at one time. I believe he owned a bookshop in New York. However, in the later 40's he rushed me over a copy of BING by DR MIZE - probably the first copy in Britain.

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***END**
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SPECIAL ADVERT FUND RAISING SALE OF BACK NUMBER MAGAZINES ETC ETC ETC
offers to the editor by the closing date. JUNE 20th.

Your offers are invited for the following back number issues of CROSBY POST:

October I953-(6 page issue) September I954-(I0 page issue) November I954-(4 page issue) May I955-(6 page issue) July I955-(I0 page issue) December I956-(I6 page issue) Febuary I957-(I2 page issue) August I959 -(I2 page issue) October I959-(I2 page issue) Febuary I960-(I6 page issue) October I960-(I6 page issue) December I96I-(22 page issue) Febuary I962 issue-(I6 page issue) December I962 issue-(26 page issue) August I963 issue-(20 page issue)

June I963-(20 page issue) October I963-(22 page issue) December I963-(34 page issue) September I964-(30 page issue) June I965-(40 page issue) September I965-(34 page issue)

SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

(I)The Road To Dublin by George O' Reilly - special publication telling the memorable story of Bing's visit in I96I

(2)Bing's Hollywood Discography by Bob Roberts - all the gen on this special Decca set

(3)Crosby - His 40 Great Years - special ICC booklet issued Oct I966 (I0 pages)

(4)The Road to Bing Crosby Vol One-covering the years I926 to I934 inclusive

(5)The Road to Bing Crosby Vol Two- " " " I934 to I943 "

(6)The Road to Bing Crosby - The "V" Disc supplement.

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SING A SING OF PIRACY
was the headline of a bedraggling photo of Bing sans pirate cap which appeared in the DAILY MIRROR (England) March I6th - passed over for "BING" by BINGPICS chief JOHN MAUGHAN with the comment "the worst photo of Bing ever" and endorsed by your editor - if you missed it, you can have it with our compliments - the first request gets it - meanwhile the caption made interesting reading;

"That budding star of the Gordonstoun stage, Prince Charles might find a few valuable hints here for his coming role in the schools production of Gilbert and Sullivan's PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

This sinister, swashbuckling figure is equipped to advise any budding musical man - The name is BING CROSBY - This pose was a demonstration of his devotion to the Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball team.

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GENTLE SONGS OF YESTERYEAR by John Miles
from the Australian press - presented by John Purches of Adelaide

No wonder the young ones get such a bang out of OUR DON BRADMAN, Its style and lyrics really make it sound hilarious today. I don't mind them laughing at some of the songs we used to warble when Bing Crosby was a fad, not a dad, and Sinatra was a skinny kid - I wish they were as tolerant when I laugh at some of the transistorised tripe that is wailed, screeched and chanted into the overtaxed eardrums of this generation of noise addicts.

If it is loud and it has a beat, then you can't beat it - It is quite useless to suggest that all pop music is pretty primitive, but that some is worse than the rest

I tried to say this the other night, and someone, one of the boys who was polishing up his old world charm, shouted; "Hey, turn that down a sec"(the volume)"What's that you say, dad?" "I was merely remarking that all this pop music is pretty primitive" I shouted. "Yeah. Great, is'nt it?" he yelled, and turned up the volume again, gratified at my ability to appreciate the pleasures of some lot no doubt described on the record label quite accurately as animals, monkeys, monsters, or something sub human.

"They're really wild, aren't they?" enthused a young friend, as a group who sounded in the last stages of pain and remorse made a howling mess of an old song which has words which go: "You were my thrill on Blueberry Hill"

cont on page I8

continuing * GENTLE SONGS OF YESTERYEAR *

Well, o.k. I do not claim for a moment that lyrics like YOU WERE MY THRILL ON BLUEBERRY HILL are really good enough to be pressed with a flower in an album of embossed leather and preserved into immorality as something beautiful, sacred and of classic antiquity, like Tennyson's poetry - But why have the dreadful words stuck in my head all these years, I would like to know? - It brings back memories, that is what is does.

I just hope the children of today are storing up for themselves some memories as good as the ones we have - I can remember, for instance, things I saw on the stage here in Adelaide when I was a boy if I6 - Anyone remember what they saw on TV last week?.

When I was a boy there was an open creek at the bottom of Beaumont Hill, where I still live, and we used to swing across it on willows, and fall in it, and have fights with stones and a great time. Today, when one boy takes another home after school to play, they sit and watch "THE THREE STOOGES" - We were hardly ever inside. I used to do the round with Bill the Baker and spend hours yarning over a lemonade to the lady who kept the local lolly shop. Now we go to the super market. Nobody speaks. The adding machine clicks.

But most of all from the old days, I remember the songs, every word of some of the choruses - Sometimes I can't help feeling just a little sorry for the young today. They are smart and swinging and with-it and wonderful, I know, but I just hope their memories are coming along satisfactorily - I am concerned to know how our teenagers are going to get on for sweet old nostalgia in about 20 years.

When they are 40, and feeling a little grey and care-wor , what will they do, how will they react, when somewhere in the moonlit evening a radio suddenly blares out "IT'S BEEN A HARD DAY'S NIGHT"? - Will he turn gently to her, smile with tender thoughts of times they shared when they were young, and will he twist and shout ever so wildly; "Listen darling, they are playing our song".

end;

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presenting ==========
THE I.C.C. "ROUND ROBIN TAPE"
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For many years the original "TAPE CROSBY" has circulated on a highly successful basis throughout the British Isles - handled initially by tape expert STAN WHITE Tape Crosby is now under the direct control of FRED REYNOLDS and operates quite independant of any club ties and having on it's list many of the Crosby toppers of the Isles - Now, the I.C.C. is to launch a "ROUND ROBIN TAPE" and members of the club who would like to take part are invited to write in the first instance to Irish Correspondant, JACK OSBORNE, II DART HILL, BELFAST II, N. IRELAND for full details, enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope for Jack's reply.

CLUB MEETING NEWS..... SUNDAY MAY 28th at;-
23 Lovaine Place
North Shields
Northumberland
COMMENCING AT 3.00PM

the programme to include
the following films

Bing Crosby * Eric Portman * Deanna Durbin
in "YOU REMEMBER THE SCENE"

Charlie Chaplin in "EASY STREET"

***** Bing Crosby in
THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD

a classic presentation of some of Bing's memorable Mack Sennet shorts combined to make a unique one hour long feature.
(N.B. The film show will commence at 7PM.)

A running buffet will be provided and members wives and husbands are cordially invited -

ADMISSION WILL BE BY PRINTED PROGRAMME ONLY and applications for programmes should be made not later than MAY 20th enclosing 5/- for each person attending.

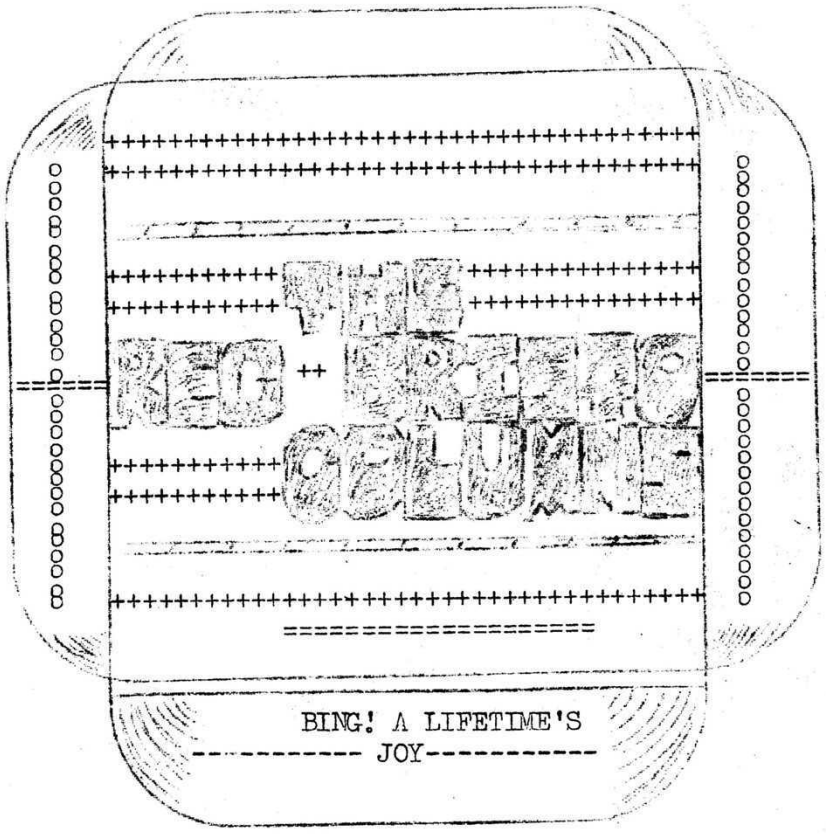
The above scene from the MGM film HIGH SOCIETY ranks as one of the all time great movie song scenes - Bing and the legendary "Satchmo" Louis Armstrong giving out with a truly memorable NOW YOU HAS JAZZ - when the film was previewed on it's 1956 release, many of the usually hardened critics applauded this scene and cinema - goers throughout the world were captivated by the tremendous vitality of Mr "C"

The I.C.C. would like to see the record of NOW YOU HAS JAZZ featured just a little bit more on the international airwaves - and members everywhere are asked to include this track, along with the following on request cards for the next three months;

BING AND LOUIS ARMSTRONG "BYE BYE BLUES" from the BING AND SATCHMO LP

BING CROSBY "HELLO WALLS" from THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS LP.

Many members have written in to say they have written to programmes without success and we appreciate the difficult positions that prevail on todays 'pop' biased airwaves - use the old saying, If at first you don't succeed - you arn't bound to succeed, but you will be showing the people whose job it is to sort through the request cards, that BING IS WANTED ON THE REQUEST SHOWS - so try to send at least a couple of request cards off EVERY WEEK - if we all sit back and wait for other people to ask for Bing, we are going to have a very long wait indeed - it's up to YOU, YOU and YOU to ask for the greatest - why not do it now.....?.....



---- R E F L E C T I O N S -----

= Trying to please all the people all the time is just not possible, as the B.B.C. are most certainly aware. Opinion for example on old Hollywood (and other) films is sharply divided. Personally, I usually enjoy them - and when they are Bing Crosby's, that goes without saying. I don't care if the story is non-existent, and the acting hammier than a pig-farm - just as long as Bing sings. The stories are not non-existent and the acting is seldom hammy, but that's quite beside the point as long as those wonderful tones are there.

= Which brings me to "Birth of the Blues" - the perfect "vehicle" for Bing, in my opinion. To see Bing, in tuxedo and bow-tie, swinging away in front of a band is a sight I much care for; a film where the orchestra doesn't somehow have to strike up from nowhere in the middle of the river, or a grassy bank - as Bing himself has wryly commented on at times. As for that routine of "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines Nellie" one has perforce to fall back on a much-abused term and call it - fabulous. The sheer, impeccable; professionalism of that duet with Mary Martin came over as fresh as seeing it for the first time. (Wish I could remember where I first saw it!) It had the teenagers watching with me up out of their chairs and smiling their delight. There was, too, some great "stuff" played by the off-screen outfit, although the miming, with Bing quite authentic with the "gob-stick", and Brian Donley getting the right look on his face "blowing" cornet, was really good. And what a great "Tiger" they were playing when the curtain abruptly ended their first stage show! And Jack Teagarden's trombone! The perfect antidote for Bregman Swings, or is that still a sore point?

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= Most comment on my tilt at that album was in the same vein as that in which it was written - good-humoured. As I well expected - and I did apologise in advance - quite a few people do like it - and one good friend wrote to tell me that "Miss Jones" was his favourite! Another said: "I didn't like that album at first - but now it has kind of grown on me and I rather like it." Well - fair enough, but I've never had to let a Crosby album grow on me before! Yet, it is probably true, for I find it a bit more bearable. Perhaps in time I will be able to stand it all except "Nice Work If You Can Get It". I don't think I'll ever be able to listen to the band's hard-hitting chorus without cringing.

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= Think what you will about PEYTON PLACE - and male and female reactions are usually predictable! - it has a quite melodious signature or theme tune. Its rather surprising no-one has had a lyric set to it - not necessarily connected with Peyton Place - for I feel the ladies at least would make it a big hit. Pity Bing doesn't go for "gimmicks", it would make a ballad tailor-made for him. Still, Bing just wouldn't be Bing if he did go for gimmicks.

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= I'm glad my little jibe at the B.B.C. disc-jockey who announced a "little old-Crosby" and then played Frank Ifield yodelling "Please" wasn't taken as a dig at Frank himself, who is probably the most personable of the present day singers with a good voice. It does seem, however, that he is working through the Crosby 1930's song-book - Please, Just One More Chance - and now Out of Nowhere. He's not the only one by a long chalk!

= Sorry to be harking back to past columns, but my query re. Jack Jackson brought a lot of comment, most of it more in sorrow than in anger. Seems he has played Crosby records in the distant past. Most interesting comment - and a feat of memory - came from friend Arnold Pope, who wrote: "....if my memory serves me correctly, Jackson began his "Record Roundabout series - complete with Tiddles the cat - in the winter of 1947-48, and it was a 45-minutes programme, aired on Saturdays, at around 4.45-5.30 p.m. He did, in fact, feature Crosby records fairly regularly on this batch of programmes, and one introduction he used has always stuck in my mind: '..and now on this one Mr. Bing Crosby out-Sinatra's Dick Haymes' - and the record broadcast was "Golden Earrings". He also played the reverse side of this record - "But Beautiful" two weeks running, I remember. A little later, probably a couple of years, I should say, he featured "Riders in the Sky", and "Blue Shadows on the Trail", and I clearly remember that, while offering no comment on Bing's vocals, he did enthuse on the excellence of the accompaniments. Funny, isn't it, how little things like this stick in the mind through the years? Its my opinion, however, that J. Jackson's policy has been to keep unswervingly right bang up-to-date, regardless of the quality of the material or his own tastes, presumably in order to appear "with-it" and ride along with current trends." Many thanks, Arnold, and I feel sure your diagnosis is absolutely right. Indeed, its queer how things stick in one's mind. I often think that if I could have remembered my school lessons with the same avidity that I studied Bing - and a few of his contemporaries-I would have found life considerably more financially rewarding! However, I think Arnold summed up the general impression of Jack Jackson.

= That gentleman has, by the way, been joined by another dewy-eyed, tremulous-lipped "clan" devotee - Des O'Connor. He really gave us the treatment - not one but two records of each member! Ah well, you gotta be young at heart!

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=Another delight came my way in the form of a most interesting letter from Keith Hyde, that fervent collector of Crosbyana, whose despatches from "down under" are so interesting. I am only too sorry to hear from Les Gaylor that Keith has since experienced an incredible run of ill-fortune, involving a bereavement and a series of accidents. I sincerely hope the sadness and anxieties are fading into the past and that the outlook for Keith is a little brighter - and I'm sure I speak for our readers.

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= Among other things, Keith said: "I was particularly interested in your paragraph relating to the number of times Bing's name occurred in many of the popular songs of a few years back. The particular song in this case being "My Kid's a Crooner". As a collector not only of Bing's records, but of all pertaining to Mr. C., I have been chasing this disc for many years without success. It is quite amazing to me that so many Bing fans have never heard of it and do not know of its existence. Could you give me full details of this item? I well remember hearing it many years ago and know most of the lyrics, in fact, but I would like to get hold of a copy of the disc (for preference) if not a tape of the song.

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"Other items I am interested in (this is still Keith) are "If I Could Only Sing like Bing" by Dean Martin, and an Australian issue "It is Crosby - Who else could it be?" This song was specially written as a theme song for "The Bing & Swing" Club run by a radio station here in Aussie in the early 40's, the membership of which ran into thousands. Incidentally, this song, entirely devoted to Bing, proved so popular that I can remember it being in the top eight on the Australian radio and hit parade. For some reason or other, quite inexplicable, I let it go, and and have been chasing it ever since! I was lucky enough recently to turn up a sheet music copy of it. There was also an Australian Parlophone issue: "If Bing Could Only Sing to Me", and I'm glad to say I have a good copy of this one in my collection. I wonder if there were any other songs written specifically about Bing, issued on discs overseas. You will remember, no doubt, Judy Garland's famous song "Sweet Sixteen" (or wasit "I'm Just an In-Between"?) in which she referred to Bing. There is also the Mills Bros. "Opus 1" (.."And maybe old Bing will give it a fling.."

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= By an astonishing coincidence, the very first Monday after receiving Keith's letter, those of you who listen to "Square Deal" will have heard Hubert Gregg play "My Kid's a Crooner" by Frances Day, and gave it as a 1935 recording. The lyrics were nicely enunciated and the "I think I'll write to Crosby, ask him what to do" came over loud and clear! I remember all the bands playing this around 1935 - Elsie Carlisle did it very well - as in fact, did Harry Roy. In fact it wasn't all that long ago that I saw an old 78 of it in a junk-shop. I am renewing the search for Keith, but meanwhile, it would be great if, among our readers and members,

there is one who can help Keith in this item for his Crosbyana. I don't know whether its a practicable proposition to send a 78 all that way - but there must be plenty of copies of that particular song around. Both I and Keith would be appreciative. I believe his address appears in the front of the magazine. And meanwhile, renewed good wishes to Keith.

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= Exactly a year ago, in the April, 1966, BING, page 26, there was a picture of Mrs. C. and the little fella, the latter clutching what was plainly an L.P. album of Bing's, and though I studied this from every angle, and even enlisted the aid of a magnifying glass, I couldn't identify it - and was considerably intrigued. Those people who had got their U.S. albums from TARA, etc. no doubt did recognise it. The came the Ace of Hearts issue of Bing in Paris last November - and my curiosity was satisfied, for the picture was that of the American issued Paris album., and indeed, also used for the similar album here.

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= I heard a "D-J" say on the air recently, "My knowledge of music is monumental in its mediocrity" - and it was obvious from his further comments that he was in earnest. Yet one must perforce stand back and honour these lads of the B.B.C. When the Beatles latest single looked like being an almighty flop they stoutly rallied the Nation. I don't think one of them failed to do his bit in plugging the record, with the result that it did reach the top of some charts - seemingly displacing that melodious ballad "TThis is My Song", and speaking of melody you have no doubt observed the look of extreme anguish that comes over the faces of the frenetic, fraternal, quartet - and the chairman - of Juke Box Jury whenever a record by a singer with pretensions to a voice is played - not that often, alas.

= On one occasion recently an Al Martino record of "Daddy's Little Girl" was played to a united and spontaneous "Ugh" from the "with it" quartet. Now few will disagree with the opinion that Al sings very nicely indeed, and even if that particular song is a bit "mushy" it is still a long way in front of most of the "songs" enthused over. Then again, Val Doonican's "Memories Are Made of This", admittedly a carbon copy of at least two other versions eight or nine years, but nevertheless a very tuneful and pleasant record - and indeed, recorded I understand by public demand, - the chairman described it as "an old-fashioned bore" (cont. half-way down next column -

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= I had occasion to write to M.F.P. (E.M.I.) records the other week - and took the opportunity to remark on the astonishing omission of the one and only Bing in their highly successful - and prominently displayed - series. Their reply, and I quote, was: "We do in fact receive many repertoire suggestions, and Bing Crosby has been asked for on many occasions. Whilst we have no immediate plans for releasing a Bing Crosby record, it is certainly under serious consideration."

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= I have recently seen a real photograph, taken in 1935, of The Rhythm Boys. That's a long time ago friends, is it not? Whatever else I knew in 1925, I didn't know of this celebrated trio! Three diffident, neatly-dressed young men, not in stage clothes, but in presumably their best suits - in fact, it reminded me of the postcard-size pictures we used to have taken at 3 for 6½d by Jeromes! That's a memory for some of our readers, I imagine. Bing was in a dark suit, with a white handerchief at the breast pocket - no outrageous gear and perfectly normal hair-styles. Normal in 1925 at least, and normal up to about 1960! It is easy to imagine that at the time this picture was taken they were having the time of their lives in those exciting days of new-radio and comparatively new-gramophone records, exciting new bands and trends - and had not the slightest inkling of what was just a few years away for Bing.

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= Why all this in BING? Simply that it is overwhelming and grisly evidence of just what a wind of change - a hurrican more likely - is needed to get Bing reinstated to his rightful place. That he will be one day I have no doubts but an awful lot has to happen in the B.B.C. record set-up before it comes to pass. True the odd records do creep in - often with an authentic comment - due to the indefatigible efforts of dedicated members - and indeed, this may well be the means of one day turning the tide. But, except for a special request in a programme I feel it may even be a mistake to mention the Circle - the people at the B.B.C. are liable to dismiss such requests as coming from an organised "pressure" group. Letters seemingly from the general public would perhaps get more attention. Its just a thought.

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On the other hand, I don't see why we shouldn't present an official request from the I.C.C. for a regular weekly programme, to cater for his admirers - practically everyone!

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If this didn't please the population 100 per cent, for certain it wouldn't offend them. The sort of programme I have in mind is one in which the expert Crosbyites in the land would be invited to prepare - if not take part in. A programme that didn't consist of Bing's million-sellers all the time, but records that are of particular interest for accompaniment or historical reasons, with informed comment, or conversation, in between. That we'd all be busy taping needn't be publicised! After all, the B.B.C. now broadcasts from 5.30 in the morning until about 2 the following day, almost 24 hours. One half-hour, or hour's broadcast, per week would be a drop in the ocean - but so welcome to most people.

= In this connection, may I compliment Arnold Record on the reasoned case he put to the B.B.C. - and his suggestion of a questionnaire while unlikely to be adopted, would I am I am sure, astonish the B.B.C. by its results. As would the reaction from a regular Bing-Time.

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= The legend that the voice of Crosby could be heard every minute of the 24 hours of the day and night was first mooted in the 30's, and I certainly think it was probably true for many, many years. Perhaps from 1935 to 1945? I can clearly recall fiddling with the dial in the 30's and it was truly remarkably how often one could pick up Bing even without being able to get the American stations. These would, of course, lent considerable weight to the claim. But I would very much doubt if it was true today, even allowing for the hundreds of American T.V. channels which are showing old films regularly. True or not, however, with the best will - and diligence - in the world, it would be very difficult to prove or refute, I feel.

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= Did you notice that during one of his Christmas radio broadcasts, Bing mentioned that the Englishman in particular he had been associated with came from Leeds? I always believed Bob Hope came from Eltham, in S.E. London. Perhaps Michael of Leeds can say something about this!

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--- CROSBY ENCOUNTERS ---

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What a delightful cameo that was, described in the last BING, and submitted by Peter Monaghan - the man who met Bing in the Saltmarket...to look up and see a familiar figure, familiar perhaps this past 30-odd years....."you're Bing!" And the very cordial reply: "You're right, fella!" from the Maestro himself. A lovely story. Imagine bumping into Mr. C. Very interesting too, to read of Stanley Cooper's meetings with Mr. C., and to know that even among the illustrious company of the Royal Opera House there is at least one fervent Bing admirer. I've often wondered what the elite of the singing world - and I mean this very sincerely - think of Bing Crosby. As one might expect, admiration for Bing abounds almost everywhere. Certainly we all get our interesting encounters as a result of the Crosby-interest - even if they do not extend to bumping into the master himself! I myself had a very amusing one a few years ago - the name of the album will give you the approximate date.

= I was sitting, with the wife, in a service mess overseas, ruminating on what a queer Christmas this was going to be in shirt-sleeves, shorts, and brilliant sunshine outside even though it was late evening. We happened to be sitting not far from the overhead loudspeakers, and routine-background music was coming over, put out from the base studio.

= Suddenly, the voice of Bing came over - and I noticed a C.P.O. get up and nip outside, not an uncommon event in a bar. When he returned a couple of minutes later he changed his seat for one much nearer us - and nearer, therefore, the loudspeakers. "You don't mind?" he asked. "Not at all," we answered. The volume had gone up noticeably and we were launched on Bing's Irish album.

= There weren't many in the mess, and listening was quite comfortable. Suddenly, our "Chief" took his pipe from his mouth, nodded in the direction of the speakers and said: "Know who that is, I suppose?" We assured him we certainly did - and listened in silence for a few minutes. "Just been on to the studio to ask them to turn up the sound a piece," said the Chief, "hope you don't mind?" We assured him he couldn't have pleased us more, and he sat with his head cocked on one side, listening with great enjoyment, as indeed, did all the bar-occupants.

= "That man's voice certainly gets you - do you like Bing Crosby?" My wife broke in: "You've asked the right man," she said, "if you hadn't had the volume turned up, my husband would have!" Immediately a new interest - perhaps respect! - came into the Chief's eyes. I'd better start calling him Bill, for that's what his name turned out to be. "Fantastic," went on Bill, "it seems all my life (he was a piece younger than I) Bing has been around singing, as good as ever.

And no matter where I go, I always managed to lug a fair-sized collection of his records around with me - and manage to get some new ones. You can get them here," said Bill, "I bought a new album today."

= "Yes," I answered, "you bought it about 2.30 this afternoon and it was called "Home on the Range"!" Bill look flabbergasted. "You were in the shop?" he asked. But I had n't been in the shop - then, but I had spotted the album and quickly went in to pick it up around 3 o'clock that afternoon, and the woman in the shop had remarked that there appeared to be a run on Crosby albums - two in less than half-an-hour! Remember, this wasn't a very busy place, and Rock 'N' roll was in full flood.

= We had a laugh about my "second sight", and then a full discussion on the new album.

To cut the story short, we bought him 2 drinks one, he bought us one, then we bought him one,...and around midnight he was back at our quarters with us going through my collection like a small boy who had just found a large pot of marbles...and Bill certainly knew his subject, I was delighted to discover. We saw quite a bit of him before his carrier left for home waters - and he gave my records one of the best airings it had ever had! To be fair, he never turned up without an album or two of his own.

= I've never seen him since, and I'm not even sure whether he came from Chatham, Portsmouth or Plymouth, but it was from somewhere in the South.

= For all I know, he's a member of the Circle. If he is, I don't expect him to remember my name - but he'll remember the encounter!

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C R O S B Y A N A F O R S A L E (! ! !

= Under this somewhat misleading heading in the last issue, wherein I recounted the sadness of a certain reader that many records &c went to "the highest bidder", I said I wanted to try the experiment of raffling a record. With no false pride, I have to tell you that it has been, so far, a monumental, fantastic, unbelieveable - F L O P ! To save you rummaging for the January issue, the brief dedetails were: E.P. Young Bing Crosby, H.M.V. (Ol' Man River, Thanks to You, I'm coming Virginia, and That's Gradma! (Rhythm Boys). My price 7/6d + 6d postage, i.e. 8/-, anything over that to Circle funds. Readers to send 1/- P.O. or I imagine stamps to the value of would do. Editor Frank has passed on the sad news that we didn't even reach 8/-! There could be several reasons for the lack of response; nobody reads my stuff - Frank says he thinks they do. Everyone has the full album and the E.P. isn't attractive? Could be, but 1/-, especially to help the funds ain't a ransom! Frank says perhaps they "skipped" that part of my column, and as he is less easily daunted than I (guess he has to be) wants me to renew the offer. Naturally I'm only too willing, so we'll extend the closing date to May25th, i.e. exactly a month, and then a winner will definitely be drawn no matter what the response. To those who have already responded, thank you very much.

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Tastes, naturally, are diverse - and that is how it should be - but I think you will agree that there is food for thought in the following:

R E C O R D S A R E A W A S T E O F M O N E Y !

= Don't be alarmed, above right is a statement by better half is inclined to utter - but as she uses the turntable almost as much as anyone, she doesn't really mean it. You known what I'm talking about, men? Mind you, on these occasions she isn't referring only to modern "pop" records - she means the lot! That's why you've probably noticed I sometimes quote my teenage daughters reactions, for they are a useful yardstick, for she is brainwashed from both sides - the modern and the weird, not ancient, but somewhat older. Now I could never use my wife's reactions as a yardstick, for she has some very odd attributes.

= For example, she can sing one song, quite nicely, while the radio or gram is playing another. That's not easy. Then again, a Lew Stone record, with Al Bowlly singing came to a finish the other day, and my dear wife remarked: "The Ink Spots sound great on that record, don't they" Its disheartening, you know. Only a few mornings back she called me from the bathroom, the only place I don't have an extension speaker, "Bing's on in here." I dropped the shaving-gear, nipped in and turned the volume up - and it was True Love alright, but Ken Dodd was singing it! I like Doddy's singing, but I only drop shaving gear for Mr. C. My wife is hardly discriminating. Yet as I say, she likes quite a lot of records, although the only Bing album she puts on is "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" - she is a Bing fan to an extent, as most grown-ups are.

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You will note the Irish leaning, although my wife is Welsh. Then again she goes for nostalgic Scottish songs like Andy Stewart's "Scottish Soldier" - and a recent addition, "These Are My Mountains" by the Alexander Bros. So what I think she is really looking for is an album that combines "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", and "These Are My Welsh Mountains"! And its not a bad idea at that. I bemoaned in January on behalf of Welsh members that Bing had never got down to Wales - for the fishing, and he's catered for nearly every nation under the sun - including flirting with the Scots! - but nary a Welsh song.

= So if Bing wants a subject for a new album, what about one with Welsh leanings and songs. I'm afraid it would take a Welshman to name those beautiful Welsh songs apart from "We'll Keep a Welcome", "Bells of Aberdovey", "All Through the Night", "Men of Harlech" and so on. It would be grand for the master to honour the Land of Song with a Welsh Rarebit.

= I know at least one housewife who would scurry off to the shops to buy such an album - even though she would be beaten to it by yours truly - and there is a tremendous Welsh element in America itself - more than enough to ensure success. What about it, Bing?

= To be scrupulously fair, my wife does enjoy records, and is familiar with Bing, the Mills Bros. the Ink Spots, Andrews Sisters and so on....even if she is inclined to mix them up.

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B I N G ' S I R I S H S H O W :

= I feel certain that this show has received a lot of attention in this issue, I myself am looking forward to reading about it. I thought, too, you may like to read what the critic in "The South Wales Echo", Wales's leading eveningnewspaper had to say concerning it:

" V I E W P O I N T "

= Now any programme starring Bing Crosby, is by that very fact, bound to have something. A Little Bit of Irish on T.W.W. last night had him in full measure, and plenty of pleasantly lilting music and literary material besides.

= But what it didn't have was anything which really showed that the programme was coming from Ireland. It might just as well have been recorded in a works canteen in Philadelphia. It was an astonishing omission. A chance was missed to show us Irish scenery against a good background of sound. It wouldn't have been an unfamiliar technique, of course, but yet it was a vital one."

= Yet someone wrote to the Sunday Mirror and said it reeked of Irish Tourist Board! Me? I thought it had tons of atmosphere, with the unique setting for the dancers, the singing in front of white-washed farm buildings, the castle ramparts, etc. - indeed, an Ulsterman acquaintance was heard to mutter "Using 'ol Bing to put over their dam' rebel songs!" And of course, Guiness was verbally sprinkled around. I thoroughly enjoyed it all - but one thing I would have liked would have been for Bing to do something, perhaps in the Abbey Theatre, with an audience present. "McNamara's Band", "Innisfree" with the children, and other songs, with the band behind him, would have put that "its happening now" atmosphere into it, for the fact that it was all tele-recorded was very, very plain to see.

= It has been said, too, that Bing looked old, and indeed, people who met him lasttautumn, were a little aghast that it made him look older than he does in real life. I thought he looked great, although I did feel the harsh lighting was a little unkind to him in the final close-up of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." On the other hand, if some people expected to see a youthful chap singing "Please" they were being totally unrealistic, weren't they.

= The local T.W.W. T.V. Times carried three letters the following week, all saying how much the show was enjoyed and what good voice Bing was in, after all these years.

= The Daily Sketch, from London, of course, printed a letter from a fan asking why Bing was connected with an Irish show. The answer came promptly from another, who said surely a fan would know of Bing's Irish ancestry.

= But as I said earlier, I loved it all, including the dramatic recitations. And of, course, The Pill, Drug Addiction, Perversions and kitchen-sinks were conspicuous by their absence. That alone is high commendation for the show.

= And I must say I was a little abashed to see that Buddy Bregman was connected with the show in view of the rude things I've said about his accompaniment on Bing Sings! He is a versatile man, no diubt!

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I gratefully acknowledge the copyright of the review quoted above, The South Wales Echo.

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+ It'll be just my luck if the wife picks this up and reads it, in view of my remarks above. She doesn't usually! ++++++++++++

W E L L ? D O T H E Y W R I T E
S O N G S L I K E T H I S A N Y M O R E ?

= It would be difficult to dream up a more hackneyed - and dangerous - heading than that. Hackneyed because a lot of people are asking it, and dangerous because you are highly likely to be branded as senile as soon as you start suggesting that things are not what they used to be in the songwriting - or any other - line. But now we're in contemporary fashion, for perhaps you have seen the album on show "Some Good Old "Oldies" - by THE BEATLES! I suppose they must be at least three years old. So where does that put us, we who consider the 30's and 40's as vintage? One of my most frighhening recollections is of seeing a huge crowd of about 60,000 roaring out "She Love You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah" - a tough, supposedly, crowd of football supporters. That line was, naturally, repeated the requisite three times extremely fortissimo - but when it reached: "With a love like that, etc." it tailed away. Naturally, for most of these songs are no use at all for community singing. Grand for jigging, twisting, shaking around as the youngsters do, but usually incapable of being sung.

= One of the criteria for a song's popularity used to be whether or not it was whistled by messenger boys, and I recently saw a printed comment somewhere that this did not happen today - largely because the songs could not be whistled, and perhaps because the lads nowadays carried a transistor glued to their ear! But again, I don't want to be misunderstood - I have enjoyed one or two Beatle songs, mainly when arranged and played by an orchestra. On the other hand, I remember Stanley Black once arranged "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts" - and made it sound like a symphony. In any case, I started off as you might anticipate, to talk about Bing's songs.

= There have been some grand songs in recent years - the score of "My Fair Lady" as a great example, but I'm talking of the run-of-the-mill Tin Pan Alley stuff. When there is a good song turned out, the recent "Games That Lovers Play" as an instance, it is treated with derision by the assessors and record putter-onners. Yet there has always been a tendency to scoff at popular songs - in the 30's mugh was heard of the "moon and June tripe"! The recent Eurovision song contest was a shocking illustration of today's general song-writing ability. "Puppet" is a good catchy song, with quite a good melody, and would have beaten sterner opposition than in fact it got. But that opposition. A more nondescript collection of songs could not be imagined. I felt sorry for the judges, for when it came voting time I had a terrible job trying to remember any of the songs, except of course, "Puppet", competently sung by Miss Shaw.

= Bing, of course, had many, many, songs tailored to fit film roles: "Pennies From Heaven" to comfort a child during a storm, "Swingin' on a Star" to a class of potential "hoods", "Small Fry" to admonish a precocious brother. And so on. Lyrics sometimes romantic, often whimsical and humourous.

= Yet a good test of a song is how it looks in print, or how it would stand as poetry. Take the following:

'I'm free, as the wandering breeze,
I'm free to wander any place I please
- and yet, I can't escape from you
I'm free, as the birds in the trees,
I'm free to sail the seven seas -
- and yet, I can't escape from you.
I could ride away - hide way,
Where we were miles apart,
But when I got there I'd find you there,
- right in my heart,
And so you see, I'm really not free,
I'm so afraid you might escape from me
- and yet, I can't escape from you."

Take that with Bing's tones and phrasing, Jimmy Dorsey's melodious yet swinging band, and it made one of scores of great songs that Bing took in his stride. You will know thee song, by Leo Robin and Richard A. Whiting, from the film "Rhythm on the Range", my idea of a great record.

= But go back before Bing's big film days. What of the following:

'Leaves come tumbling down,
round my head,
Some of them are brown,
some are red,
Beautiful to see - but reminding me
Of a faded summer love'.

or:

'What price happiness - what price
happiness,
Who can truthfully say,
That for every share, with tears we pay?'

What of the lyrics of "Too Late" - two of the most fateful words in the English language. Those song-writers put an awful lot of thought into their efforts - and drew copiously from philosophy. (cont over

Perhaps all these songs amount to "She Loves You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah," or moreoften than not "She Loves You Not, Yeah" - but I know which I prefer.

-----oOo----

As a postscript, the only chap I know who whistles regularly these days whistles the marching song from the T.V. commercial - "H.P. Baked Beans".

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W H A T ' S I N A N A M E !

= As you will see later on - if you persevere - I have not, hitherto, been much of a "gen" man on discography, etc. - although I am being drawn into the net more and more now.

= Does the name SCHRAUBSTADER mean anything to you? Honestly? Well, according to the label (RD 27032) he helped to write "Last Night on the Back Porch" - and do you know with whom he collaborated to produce this catchy song? None other than a gentleman named Brown! A more unlikely combination of names couldn't be dreamed up, could it. You look if you don't believe it.

= The label on that particular album, by the way, was no mean feat of compilation and setting up by the printer. "Whispering" was written by Schonberger in conjunction with Rose and Coburn. "Tell Me" is by gentlemen of the names of Callaghan and Kortlander, while Mr. Schwandt helped out with "Dream A Little Dream of Me." Still, Irving Berlin isn't his real name, is it? No doubt you are aware that Messrs. Weill, Blitzstein and Brecht wrote "Mack the Knife". Makes Johnny Mercer look very ordinary, doesn't it? And it makes the album something out of the ordinary - as indeed, does the very fine recording "new orthophonic" as it was described at the time of issue. "So Shangri", as Bing said. I feel he did like making this album.

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It is common knowledge that a lot of weird and wonderful things happen in the modern electronic recording world - how tapes are grafted together, double-tracking, echo-and-reverberation chambers and so on. But the one that strikes me as being really revolutionary might be described as

-- P L A Y N O W --- S I N G L A T E R --

=======++=======

= Plenty of good things have happened to me since I joined the Circle, or may I say, organised Crosby? - a host of good friends, mainly postal, an added stimulus to collecting, not to mention a wealth of information which I wouldn't otherwise have come by. Organised "Crosby" that is, as opposed to ploughing a lone furrow for so many years. There have been surprises, too, and perhaps thebiggest has been to discover the tremendous research that has gone, and is going, on concerning Bing's vast record output. Take the absorbing interest there is in different "takes". This is completely new to me.

= I suppose I've always accepted that when a record is cut it takes several attempts before anyone is satisfied with it. Perhaps up to half-a-dozen goes or more, although it is well known of course that Mr. C. can record more quickly and expertly than anyone else. I believe a modern beat group can take up to a week before the electronic "doctors" produce a commercial disc. And also, the group is liable to wreck the studio during the sessions. The big thing about different takes in the case of Bing would seem to be that some of these alternate "takes" were not rejects in the normal way, but were liable to be, in fact, were issued on commercial labels, thereby making it yet another "Crosby" to acquire. My interest in takes was considerably quickened, I must admit, on hearing the "B" version of Gallagher & Shean. If I may return to my wife's observations for a moment, she isn't aware that we have two versions of that record. Indeed, the other day when it was played she remarked: "Bing doesn't say 'elementray' on that record now' - as if the record was a new live performance each time. But these "gen" boys have really given me a new slant on records, for which I am grateful. For instance, I listened to "El Senor" for years without twigging what was wrong with it - until Les Gaylor opened my eyes - ears perhaps - to the fact that the engineers had got the balance all wrong, and in fact, that a different version, giving the

orchestra a bit of bass, had been issued. Bing's singing and the Billy May accompaniments do seem two separate entities on this album. As I say, I always felt there was something not quite right with it, but never tumbled to just what it was.

= But I found the news that Bing nowadays frequently sings to pre-recorded accompaniment rather startling. To sit down in a cubicle or orchestra-less studio seems a remarkably weird process - a disembodied process. That the technique is satisfactory and efficient is, for me, borne out by the fact that until I was told, I couldn't tell by listening to, for example, most of the tracks on "Holiday in Europe". I should imagine it is quite a tricky operation, especially when a choir or chorus is used for the "oooohs and aaaahs". And again, it must be odd to hear the orchestra playing an accompaniment without the melody line, viz. Bing's voice. Like having a football match with no ball, or a wedding with no bride.

= I can remember however that in the 30's - and I believe it is still done today - one could buy "rhythm section" only records and you could fit your own melody to them, i.e. piano, clarinet, or what have you. They were intended, of course, for practising musicians.

= I well remember bringing one home, "Sweet Sue" with "Some of These Days" on the reverse, and my father saying: "What he heck is that?" as the drums, bass, guitar and rhythm piano thumped their way through, with no melody. They were extremely useful to a musician still learning. Of course, you could whistle or sing to them.

So perhaps there is nothing startlingly new in pre-recorded accompaniments, after all. And if it seems a curiously inanimate process, certainly the finished product leaves nothing to be desired.

Apparently the reason Bing adopts this course now is to avoid the shipment of a large orchestra and its gear thousands of miles nearer his home in San Francisco. Even so, it is, I suspect, largely done purely for this convenience. It has been pointed out, and is easily believed, that Bing for preference likes to be in front of the band, the rhythm section at that.

= Oh yes, one's horizon is certainly broadened by the work and research of these discographers and dedicated "gen" men - and I for one, am very grateful.

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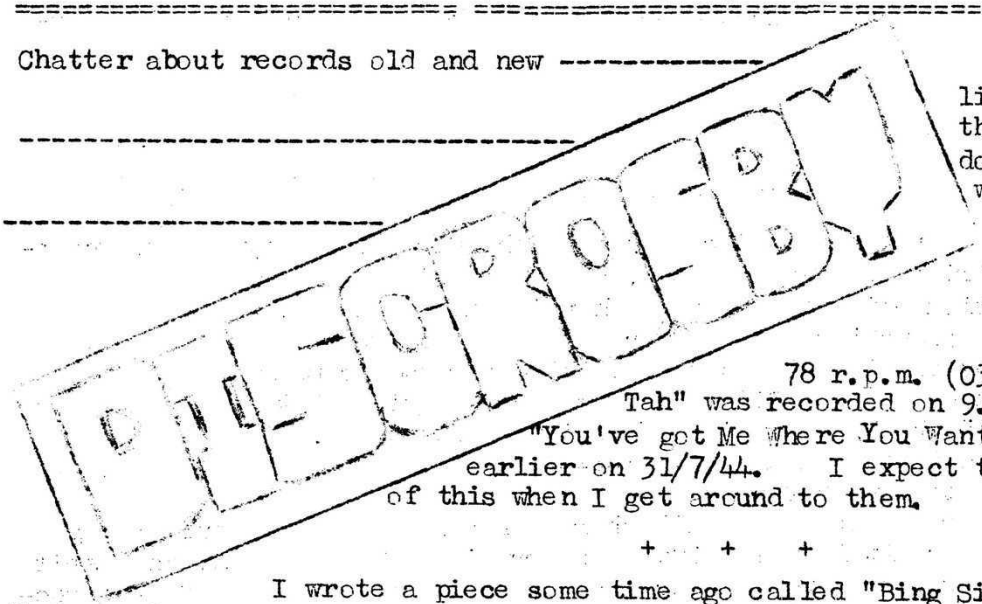
Chatter about records old and new ----------



I am, as I said above, little more than a beginner in the "gen" business, and undoubtedly I'm going to rush in where the proverbial fear to tread. But to show that I am taking more interest in my records beyond listening to them, I've noticed that on the Brunswick single, 78 r.p.m. (03597) that one side, "Yah-Tah-Tah" was recorded on 9.3.45, while on the reverse, "You've got Me Where You Want Me" was done eight months earlier on 31/7/44. I expect there's plenty of examples of this when I get around to them.

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I wrote a piece some time ago called "Bing Sings - But When?" suggesting that great care was needed in a huge collection to see that all records got a fair hearing, and remarking how easy it was to overlook a record. And I've fallen into my own trap - for I played the other day the album "In A Little Spanish Town" for the first time for several months. Which is a silly thing to do, for it came over with renewed emphasis just what a great and melodious record this is, with Bing in wonderful voice throughout. And what a variety of great accompaniments, ranging from the master of Latin American music himself, Xavier Cugat, to John Scott, the Bando da Lua - and the "odd man out" (in recording date too) the title song, with Buddy Cole. Wonderful melodies: Siboney, Baia, Let Me Love You Tonight - and "You Belong to My Heart". The way Bing sings that second "Do You Remember?". Anywne, including myself, who neglects this album doesn't deserve it!

\+ + +

Discrosby cont.

= "Here Lies Love" - a tune that perhaps even more than "Please" brings back the Crosby that first hit the world-scene, the vital, throaty, Bing that revolutionised pop singing. I saw "The King of Jazz", but honestly, I don't remember Bing in it. Its possible I saw him in Mack Sennett shorts without knowing it. But the first "Big Broadcast" was the unforgettable film - in which, of course, "Here Lies Love" was featured. I bewailed the fact that altho' once possessing this track, it had eluded me since and I sorely missed it. Now I have it again, thanks to a most generous gesture on the part of an I.C.C. member. Cross my heart, my comment on it in the last issue was a comment only, and not a "Wanted" ad.

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= For that reason, I'm sure my benefactor would not welcome any publicity, but assuredly he knows of my gratitude. You know, as a lad of 15 or so, when this number was very popular I remember the band played it at a school dance. I had the temerity to go up to the leader and tell him he had played the number much too fast. I recall how he smiled: "You mean Bing sings it slower? Well, its written down in the arrangement we have as a "fast" foxtrot - and in any case, sonny, we haven't got Bing with us to sing it tonight!"

\+ + +

= Is it too fanciful to suggest that in "Ballad for Americans" we get a slight idea of how Bing would have sounded in operetta? Grateful as we are to Decca for the wonderful Ace of Hearts albums, it is puzzling what prompted this new issue. Crosby men are glad to have the Ballad in one piece, as it were, but I find it difficult to believe that it had wide appeal. Thank goodness forthcoming issues do not appear to depend on the success of it. "The Star Spangled Banner" must surely have offered Bing his sternest challenge range-wise. Perhaps the composer intended it as a duet between baritone and soprano. Bing was in great voice when he made the "Ballad". "Man Without A Country" fair enough for all who want any Crosbyana, must surely be the delight only of Americans?

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= Brass? Bregman brass? My idea of a good brass passage occurs just after Bing's first chorus in "April Played the Fiddle", when three or four trombones play a muted solo. Wonderfully melodious and restrained, reminiscent of the wonderful "singing" tone of the one, and only Tommy Dorsey. Infinitely preferable to "driving" blast, I feel.

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= A lot of "new" things can be discovered in records if the method of playing them is varied as regards the bass and treble controls. For instance, if you invariably play them with maximum bass - a nice, rich, lush, sound, they sound tremendously different if you play them maximum treble and minimum bass. There are elementary technical reasons for this - perhaps one of our frequency experts will do us a story on this aspect - I noticed this particularly the other day when playing "Don't Be That Way", and I was startled at the way the guitar came through so strongly in the accompaniment when played on max. treble. When max. bass is used, the guitar is virtually inaudible. Of course, when playing old 78's, the more bass the better - to try and drown the inherent surface "hiss". But on modern recorded albums in Hi-Fi, various experiments can be tried - its surprising what a different sound you can get, although of course, the record is basically the same.

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= Reverting to Ace of Hearts, my copy of the No. 1 volume, has a very rough ending on the George White's Scandals medley. I feel almost certain that this was due to an unsatisfactory master from which it was transcribed. Or have I got a faulty album?

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= If ever there was a mystery in the record line surely it is that Bing's wonderful version of "Chicago" hasn't become an oft-heard standard? Here is a record that, in up-tempo style, has everything: Bing powerful and authoritative, Buddy Cole scintillating, and full of incredible zip. As is the other side, "Alabamy Bound". But of course, there were other great singles around this time - victims of the Presley invasion. I wasn't in this country - let alone organised Crosby - when, for example, "Gigi" came out, so I don't know what was even said or written about this record in 1958. To me it is just great, containing everything in the way of tone that made Bing what he is. Perhaps even more attractive, that wonderful performance on the reverse, "The Next Time It Happens". Whenever I listen to "Gigi" I get the impression that Bing's voice "tumbles" down when he sings that remarkable ling: "Was I out somewhere blinking at a star?" Tremendous.

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= Well, in case the fancy "heading" didn't come out at the start on page 20, this ends Reg Bristo's contribution until July - I hope. Happy days and happy listening!

========oOo=======

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365	Shine/Dinah	(lams,RCnap)	Br 6485	E-
366	Love thy neighbor/Ridin round in the rain		Br 6852	V-
367	Treasure Island/Boots and saddle		BrE 02100	E+
368	If you should ever need me/Out of nowhere		BrC 6090	V+
369	Stardust/Dancing in the dark		BrC 6169	V+
370	Can't we talk it over/Dinah		BrC 6240	E-
371	Paradise/You're still in my heart		BrC 6285	G
372	Out of nowhere/If you should ever need me	(Warp nap)	BrC 80043	E-
373a	Just one more chance/Now that you're gone	" "	BrC 80044	E-
373b	I found a million dollar baby/Thru with love	" "	BrC 80045	V+
374	Too late/Goodnight sweetheart	" "	BrC 80046	E-
375	Faded summer love/Blue of the night	(rim nick)	BrC 80055	V+
376	Stardust/Dancing in the dark		BrC 80056	V+
377	I apologize/Sweet and Lovely	(rim nick)	BrC 80057	V+
378	At your command/Many happy returns of the day		BrC 80058	V+
379	World on a string/How deep is the ocean		Co 4301	E
380	Last roundup/Home on the range		Co 4302	E
381	Thanks/Down the old ox road		Co 4303	E
382	My honey's lovin arms/Please		Co 4304	E-
383	Some of these days/Shine		Co 4305	E
384	Rose of Mandalay/I'll get by (IPANA TRBDRS)	(labelscr)	Co 1694	V+
385	My suppressed desire/Rhythm king (WHITEMAN		Co 1629	V+
386	Straight from the shoulder/Love in Bloom	(RCnap)	CoC 6062	E-
387	The last roundup/Home on the range		CoC 6063	E
388	Honey's lovin arms/Paradise	(Warp nap)	CoE DB1971	E
389	Once in a blue moon/Give me a heart to sing to	" "	CoE DB2000	E
390	Ridin around in the rain/Goodnight Lovely...		CoE DB2043	E
391	Thanks/Temptation		CoE DB2056	E-
392	Love thy neighbor/May I		CoE DB2059	E-
393	Ever see a dream walking/I'm hummin whistling..		CoE DB2068	E
394	Starlight/Guess it had to be that way		CoE DB2137	E
395	Linger a little longer/Our big love scene		CoE DB2142	E
396	Someday we'll meet again/Let's spend an evening.		CoE DB2153	E
397	Let's put out the lights/Let's try again		CoE DB2208	E
398	Ho Hun/I'm gonna get you (GUS ARNHEIM)		ViC 2269I	V+
399	" " "		" "	E-
400	" " "	(RCnap)	" "	G

401	One More time/Thanks to you (GUS ARNHEIM)		Vi	22700	E
402	We'L make hay while sun shines/Blue prelude		Vo	2868	E-
403	Thanks/Home on the range		Vo	2870	G
404	Black moonlight/Sweet georgia brown (ISHAM JONES)		OK	2867	E-
405	Red sails in the sunset/Bootsand saddle		De	616	V+
406	Basin street blues/Bob white	(RCnap)	De	1483	V-
407	You are the one/Please		De	3450	V+
408	You lucky people/It's always you		De	3636	V+
409	Do you care/Humpty dumpty heart		De	4064	V+
410	Socks don't match/My baby said yes	(Warp nap)	De	2341	7E
411	Give me the simple life/Talk of the town		De	23469	E-
412	I found a new baby/Who's sorry now		De	23530	E
413	Road to Morocco/Put it there pal (BOB HOPE)		De	40000	E-
414	Moon was yellow/Very thought of you		DeC	179	E-
415	June in January/Love is just around corner		DeC	310	E-
416	Wished on the moon/Two for tonight	(RCnap)	DeC	543	V
417	From top of your head/Wish I were Aladdin	(lab dmg)	DeC	547	V
418	Pennies from heaven/Lets call a heart		DeC	947	V+
419	Little hula heaven/Never in million years		DeC	1210	E-
420	Remember me/Still love to kiss you goodnight		DeC	1451	V+
421	Basin str blues/Bob white		DeC	1483	V+
422	When you dream about Hawaii/Silvery moon		DeC	1518	V+
423	Don't be that way/Little lady make believe		DeC	1794	V+
424	Alexanders ragtime band/Home on the range	(I"hr,cr)	DeC	1887	V
425	Silver on the sage/Mexicali rose		DeC	2001	V
426	" "		DeC	2001	E-
427	Summer time/Must have been a beautiful baby		DeC	2147	V+
428	" "		DeC	2147	E
429	Melancholy baby/Between a kiss and a sigh		DeC	2289	E-
430	Deep purple/Stardust		DeC	2374	V+
431	" "	(RCnap)	DeC	2374	V+
432	Apple for the teacher/Still bluebird sings		DeC	2640	V
433	Devil may care/If I knew then		DeC	3064	E-
434	Sierra sue/Marcheta		DeC	3133	V
435	Trade winds/Song of old Hawaii		DeC	3299	E
436	Do you ever think of me/You made me love you		DeC	4323	V
437	My melancholy baby/I cried for you		DeC	3542	V+
438	New San Antonio Rose/Makes no difference now		DeC	3590	V+
439	Camptown races/Dolores		DeC	3644	V
440	Yes indeed/Tea for two		DeC	3689	E
441	Brahms lullaby/You and I		DeC	3840	V+
442	Whistlers mother in law/Ai'nt got nobody		DeC	3971	V-
443	" "		DeC	3971	V
444	Moonlight cocktail/Don't want to walk	(RCnap)	DeC	4184	V
445	Singing sands of Alamosa/Drifting back to..		DeC	4339	E
446	I love you/I'll be seeing you		DeC	10168	V
447	Whos sorry now/I found a new baby		DeC	23530	E
448	Dear hearts gentle people/Mule train		DeC	24798	V+

449 NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE Jan 28 1946 Crosby cover and story (cover slightly worn)

ALL OFFERS DIRECT TO PETER BRADFORD BY JUNE 20th 1967

E N D E N D

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Members adverts for Bing discs, books, magazines, articles on Crosbyana in general, pen pal requests, information requests, etc etc are always welcome for publication in "BING" - these should reach us via any of the clubs registered officers and correspondents - URGENTLY REQUIRED - if you have any spare photos of Bing, or photos you can permit us to copy for the clubs exclusive BINGPICS section, especially photos from film etc magazines, please advise us, we will appreciate your advice.

TRUMPETS AND RASPBERRIES

or

UP THE POLL

by FRED REYNOLDS

After more than a year of I.C.C. activity and five or six "Bing's" it is clearly time that I expressed some opinions in the hope, however forlorn, that someone reads them and that they are acted upon. I fully realise that my saying this may be construed as presumptuous and that more than likely I shall be grievously misunderstood but speak out I must. Or at least amid all the mutual congratulations and back-slapping may I whisper that I think some small improvements could be made to the magazine? Such a suggestion might well evoke much hooting and falling about in some quarters or, in others, an indignation righteous enough to make a Passion Play seem tepid so let me say at once that I am not shouting "Murphy to the stocks"; nor do I want him branded, boiled in oil or even burned at the stake. Neither am I assaulting his, or anyone's, integrity, goodwill or enthusiasm. Indeed, much praiseworthy effort has been made to achieve a notable initial success and I, for one, am surprised at the rapid growth in membership. Much also is to be said for the increasing number of people who are now ready and willing to contribute their articles and not leave everything to the "old guard".

Having thus declared my interests, given credits and with all due respect etc. etc., I will look at the other side of the coin. Is, I wonder, the sole ambition of the I.C.C. to have as large a magazine as possible? See how the pages grow - 32, 42, 50, 56 - and while this reflects laudably on the industry of contributors much of the content is stale beer and repetitious. A general tightening up and judicious selection of material would vastly improve the quality. In the articles of one regular contributor there is little of the rich gravy that the near-phonetic implication of his name might lead us to anticipate. The brew is grossly adulterated by the large admixture of watery content, the elimination of which would reduce his outpourings by about two-thirds and increase its quality immeasurably. The ramblings (his own description) would benefit enormously from a sense of direction.

The editor's expressions of gratitude often far exceed the value of the offerings and whilst no doubt he finds it politic to praise and encourage (having to use a lot of carrot because he has no stick) the excessive adulation twists the knife in the sensibilities of those with realistic standards (E.G. a whole page article giving details of three old L.P's. was given "grateful thanks for this excellent article"). Now obviously it would be silly, as well as unfair, to criticise the authors but nonetheless I have a feeling that in time those of us who are old enough to know better might also start rolling over to have our stomachs tickled. I would not altogether say that the more pompous the tribute the less substantial the reality but one is uncomfortably close to thinking along such lines.

There are among us, I am sure, not a few who would like the editor's scissors to snip out some of the more insipid compliments, especially those to Mr. Crosby. A collection of these would be an infallible way of amusing one's small friends (up to the age of eight or so).

In recent years it has become too readily acceptable that what is successful is good and the idea of the "popularity poll" is a jaded, hackneyed, uninspired gimmick. Even the loathsome "Top Ten" serves its own nefarious commercial purposes but I fail to see any good that can come from the I.C.C. poll. I am well aware of the fashionable trend for polls and surveys and while many are necessary and revealing I think the currently-conducted one in the magazine is about as interesting as the count that informed a breathlessly anxious Lancashire public that there were four thousand holes in the roads of Blackburn;

not content with that the officials solemnly pursued their tabulations until they were triumphantly empowered to reveal to a waiting world (the audience understandably having grown) that the per capita hole accumulation in the city amounted to one twenty-sixth of a hole per head of the population. In my tender years, those dim, dark days almost beyond recall, I worked in a Government Department with many other youths and for some reason long forgotten a ballot was held among the boys to determine their most popular member. Of the one hundred or so votes polled the large majority went to Mahatma Ghandi who was followed by Charlie Chaplin; third place was taken by the most unpopular Inspector in the Department. The wisdom of youth clearly showed the proper amount of respect which should be afforded such an exercise. I am not, I assure you, contemplating a survey to decide who agrees with me but it would surprise me to learn that many have a deep interest in Frank's voting slip.

Briefly then my plea is for the editor and others always to put quality before quantity; apply some restraint on effusive compliments; avoid repetitious information; and exercise a greater degree of selectivity. And yes, I vote we discard the poll.

FRED REYNOLDS

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Fred makes some very valid observations and obviously after only one year under the new club set up, it must be apparent that we have a very long way to go yet before we can, as it were, crow, or pretend that the ultimate in magazine perfection had been reached - we were a little surprised at Fred's critisisms with regards to our saying a simple and honest thanks for a particular article - though the one in question may have been about old records, it was nevertheless written in an informative manner, and carried with it some very useful information - we don't therefore feel the common courtesy's should be tampered with - especially in this rather frustrating age of very limited new issues from Bing, it must be obvious that the number of articles we print will more and more centre around old records - we reserve the right to say thanks for any contribution. Another point is that whenever a member shows he or she wants to support the magazine, we have to be very grateful for we are not in any position to appear otherwise.

With regard to the POLL, this is being dropped, not because we feel it useless, but because it might prove a more worthwhile project if we only use it every few issues - just to attempt to keep our finger on the members pulse as it were.

The size of the magazine - we can assure Fred and any other member who feel we simply fill up the pages for filling up sake that this is not the case - we most certainly concede that every available page is used to fuffillment - but sitting behind this typewriter is so very often quite a heavy chore, especially for one not particularly endowed with typing ability - but having to get on with the job means we have no other choice if the magazine has to come out, and as is usual with most publications BING does not claim that everything included in the mag is of super Crosbyana quality - what we do maintain is that with 60 pages now being scheduled for each issue, there will be something to please everyone - to be perfectly honest Fred, I enjoyed TRUMPETS AND RASPBERRIES, thought the gen on the Blackburn holes very funny - the article as a whole was very readible - it will undoubtedly please a lot of members, but it won't please them all - neither will any of the other articles in this or any future magazines - but writing about Bing in a magazine which is after all attempting to cater for all types and tastes of Crosbyana, is bound to produce many conflicting viewpoints - and members comments on this aspect of the journal - I know for sure that the love and kisses expressed in little Carole Keeton's letter on page 6 of this issue will nauseate the big collector types - the same members will probably read AUCTION MART with favourable relish - and vice versa - To close Fred, as editor of this magazine, I am what I am, with many limitations - but honestly the magazine is coming out these days exactly as I want it to appear - and I really don't want to change the format or delete the kind of things that now appear - Would anyone else like to have a go at editing BING? .....

A press cutting which appeared in ISRAEL and subsequently sent to us by our Correspondent in Israel Samuel Sternburg featured, Kathryn, Bing and the children on the Christmas I966 HOLLYWOOD PALACE show in the USA - we sent this delightful cutting along with some others from Samuel also some from our Correspondent in NORWAY, Erik Harrison, to Kathryn for Bing's perusal - written in Hebrew and Norwegian, these press clippings we felt would interest Bing - we also asked Kathryn for the special favour of an official family photo for the club files - it gives us great pleasure to re-print Mrs Crosby's very nice letter to the club.

KGC Febuary I7, I967

Dear Frank,

I am sorry to have been so long getting back to you, but we did have to have a negative made up for you and that seemed to take a little while - why, I frankly don't know. But here it is, and Bing and I both hope it is one you can use.

Bing wanted me to thank you for the reviews and clippings. He appreciated the opportunity of seeing them.

Best wishes

signed Kathryn Crosby

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Along with this delightful letter Kathryn also enclosed a full plate negative and photo as requested of HARRY, KATHRYN, NATHANIEL, MARY FRANCES and BING and we have pleasure in re-printing this wonderful pose on page 35 opposite. and members interested in obtaining a much superior real photo copy of this excellent family group should see the BINGPICS listings in this issue.

As a further example of the much appreciated bond the club enjoys with the Crosby Office in Hollywood, it is nice to relate the instance of a very nice little fan letter sent to Bing by a I7 year old British fan, Miss Janet Cox of I Dalton House, Ebury Bridge Rd, Westminster, London SWI, asking for details of the Bing Crosby Fan Club - Janet's letter endorsed by Larry Crosby's familiar handwriting "FOR CLUB" was re-directed to the ICC where it has now received the official attention.

Whilst on the subject of LARRY CROSBY we would mention that Larry is noted in club circles as a man who does'nt waste words - Larry's reply will be usually very brief if you happen to write to him on a particular point - but it will be all you really require in the way of an answer - Recently and through the ICC officer JACK OSBORNE, Larry has made a very special offer and generous gesture to help us in our efforts to promote the ICC - more about this later, but the whole excersize of this article is, even if it is only in some small way, to show our sincere appreciation to KATHRYN, BING and LARRY CROSBY - very busy people without a doubt - and when they take time off from their busy schedules to attend to some small ICC request - we are honoured and truly grateful.

KEITH HYDE'S AUSTRALIAN ROUND-UP OF CURRENT CROSBYANA

Sorry to have missed out on my last AUSTRALIAN REPORT in the January issue, but due to illness in the family, and the additional hurly burly of Christmas, my report arrived too late for inclusion. However, though my bad luck continues, with the recent death of my father-in-law (after a long illness) and my wife being laid up with a broken leg, like Micky Spillane, I am writing against a deadline to ensure that you are all kept up to date with the "down under" Bing scene;-

RECORDS.....RECORDS

Well, by this time most of you will be aware of the great news re the recent issue on Aust RCA Victor which contains two previously un-issued tracks.. ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU and THE NEW ASHMOLEAN MARCHING SOCIETY which Bing recorded on Jan 28-1960 The number of the EP is RCA 20402, the Australian price $1.55 full details and titles in this issues SPINALONG WITH BING.

This wonderful issue with Bing in great voice has been recorded beautifully, It is balanced suborbly and is a fine example of Bing's versatility in handling four great numbers and why RCA have never issued these four tracks before as an EP is beyond me - I understand that at present there is no indication that this EP will be issued anywhere else in the world and at this point I wish to pay silent tribute to the man, who at his own request, wishes to remain name-less, but who is entirely responsible for it's release - this in itself is I feel a fine tribute to the dedecation of a sincere Crosby fan who seeks not the glory he is so obviously due too for seeing to it that these great tracks have been made available for fellow bing fans throughout the world. Thank you our nameless friend, we are forever grateful and appreciate your fine efforts - Whilst respecting our friends confidence I can assure you that he is not content to rest on his laurels, and if all goes well I can promise you that due to his efforts, we may soon have some more great news for you from the Aussie front. stay tuned to the ICC and watch this space for future developments. I must also add that these things as we all know so well can not be achieved by ones efforts alone, and therefore I would like to add a word of thanks to all the other people involved, especially to GRAHAM READE, the Music Critic, and the Chief of RCA in South Australia who backed up the project so admirably.

Arrangments have been made between our Sec Frank Murphy and myself to enable members to obtain copies of this EP which is now in great demand by collectors throughout the world. Please give this EP your solid backing - it could lead to even bigger and better releases - and don't forget, this is probably the one and only chance you may ever have to buy a copy of this much sought after disc.

Here are a few other Australian releases which are well worth your attention;

BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN - AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL DL 32100 - 12" LP

Teddy Bears Picnic-Little Sir Echo-Arn't You Glad You're You-Small Fry-Lullaby Land Swinging On A Star-The Headless Horseman-Ichabod-I Whistle A Happy Tune-Lullaby;

INTO THE 40's - ORIGINAL HIT PERFORMANCES AUSTRALIAN CALENDER R66-62 12" LP

This LP contains two Bing tracks YES INDEED and WHITE CHRISTMAS

HELLO HAWAII - AUSTRALIAN CALENDER R66-82 12" LP

This LP contains two Bing tracks NOW IS THE HOUR and BEYOND THE REEF

BING IN PARIS - AUSTRALIAN CALENDER R66-25 12" LP

This LP contains the same 12 tracks as on Eng AH 122

TV.....TV

Bing has been seen on TV here again with the TV Domestic Comedy Series now being sun on the Country TV Circuit and on Tasmanian stations also. The film ANYTHING GOES

was recently run on TV in SIDNEY, NSW and I was fortunate enough this week to catch this film whilst on holiday over there. THE ROAD TO ZANZIBAR was shown on MELBOURNE TV whilst I was away - bad luck, and shows you can't win em all but happy to say, I will catch WELCOME STRANGER which is to be shown on MELBOURNE TV this week - 21-3-67.

It seems I was also unfortunate to miss Bing's guest spot on THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW whilst I was away and I hope to get a tape of this show.

COMMENTS.....COMMENTS.

Congratulations on the Ist Anniversary issue of "BING" - it is our finest effort to-date. The ICC is really spreading its wings and is now well on the way to becoming exactly what Frank intended it to be at the outset - A truly International Crosby Circle where admirers and collectors of Crosbyana the world over can meet and discuss their views on "The Old Groaner" - We have come a long way in a short time but must never be content to rest on our laurels, but to "spread the word" at every opportunity, particularly in the countries not yet covered - It is really amazing to know that we have already infiltrated, NORWAY, ISRAEL, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, IRELAND, THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, POLAND and our own H.Q., THE BRITISH ISLES - Please pardon me if I have overlooked anyone, but we seem to be getting additional coverage so rapidly these days that by the time of publication we are likely to have another half a dozen countries covered - and why not;- As I know that there are lots of Bing admirers still to be contacted in such countries as FRANCE, GERMANY, SOUTH AMERICA, ITALY, etc - Perhaps some of our members have contacts in these countries and will advise them of our existance. From the January issue I was particularly pleased to read the reports from SAMUEL STERNBURG of ISRAEL and ERIK HARRISON of NORWAY. It is really surprising to see such Bing activities in these countries and most gratifying - Keep up the good work fellows. It is from such places that we are likely to get some really 'off-beat' news of Bing activities and perhaps rare issues at anytime. I especially enjoyed LES GAYLORS "INFORMATION CORNER" and ALAN LURIE and RON BOSLEY's new feature THE BING CROSBY MOVIE FILE and PETER MONAGHAN's articles on Bing's USA albums and of course the usually great article of THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE - I would also like to see the auction lists become a regular part of the magazine and QUERY CORNER is another great inovation which I would also like to see as a regular feature - I also like the idea of having LES GAYLOR's "INFORMATION CORNER" and also the MOVIE FILE available as seperate pages for members who want to bind these seperately. I would also like to see all the other articles pertaining to Discog, TV and Film infor together in the one section, perhaps at the rear of the magazine - (Ed - what do other members think of this idea) so that those members who are interested in facts and figures could remove them from the mag and file them seperately for quick reference without spoiling the mag.

The Photo Pages come out very nicely and I would like to see the sheet music covers become a regular feature - these would make a handsome back cover for each issue. What do other members think - I know Frank is always willing to please and is always open to useful suggestions, so if you agree, drop a few lines to say so.

Great to see that the ICC BLAZER BADGE has become a reality, along with the AUTOMOTIF CAR BADGE, but it was dissapointing to see there were so few orders for these - Frank tells me the order list will be open in this issue for a short time in order that embers can have a further opportunity to order these - Whats the matter members? - this is a club to be proud of, so why not order up and wear them proudly'' - these offers, along with other features and offers deserve your whole hearted support - if you are short of money at the moment I'm sure Frank will order for you and reserve for you an a small downpayment - the engraved ball point pens are real "swingers" so don't forget to include an order for these also. The BINGPICS section also warrents your support and attention, there are some great intimate and rare shots of Bing among these - I get every new pic offered and so can throughly recommend them - A great club such as the ICC is only as strong as it's members can make it, so please give the club your full support whenever you can and remember that EVERY member should be a correspondent and reporter, so if

Keith concludes on page 39

ANYTHING GOES

SING YOU SINNERS

AUSTRALIAN REPORT:
----concluded----

you have anything to report, please drop us a line - Anything you see of Bing in the press, magazines, newspapers etc, please snip out and send to us for the magazine - it does'nt matter if it's duplicated, the important thing is that we will all hear and read about it. YOU could be the one to 'ferret out' a great article or news item 'exclusive' - is'nt everyone a budding WALTER WINCHELL at heart ..... till next issue - cheers - KEITH HYDE -

ALAN LURIE presents THE BING CROSBY MOVIE FILE part two

Photos and information by courtesy of.....
== RON BOSLEY ==

"ANYTHING GOES" (alternative title)
"TOPS IS THE LIMIT"

CAST

BILLY CROCKER	BING CROSBY
RENO SWEENEY	ETHEL MERMAN
REV DR MOON	CHARLES RUGGLES
HOPE HARCOURT	IDA LUPINO
BONNIE LE TOUR	GRACE BRADLEY
SIR EVELYN OAKLEIGH	ARTHUR TREACHER
ELISHA J WITNEY	ROBERT McWADE
BISHOP DOBSON	RICHARD CARLE
MRS WENTWORTH	MARGARET DUMONT
JUNIOR	JERRY TUCKER
CAPTAIN	MATT MOORE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	PAT COLLINS
FIRST DETECTIVE	EDWARD GARGAN
SECOND DETECTIVE	MATT McHUGH
PURSER	JACH MULHALL
QUARTETTE	AVALON BOYS

NEW YORK PREMIERE - Febuary 1936

Based on the musical play by Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse
Music and lyrics by Cole Porter
Additional songs by Leo Robin, Richard A Whiting, Frederick Hollander, Hoagy Carmichael and Edward Heyman.
Photography by Karl Struss ASC
Special photographic effects by Farciot Edouart, ASC.
Art direction by Hans Dreir and Ernest Fegte.
Edited by Eda Warren.
Sound recording by Jack Goodrich and Don Johnson.
Costumes designed by Travis Banton
Interior decorations by A.E. Freudeman.
Production advisor--Vinton Freedley
Produced by Benjamin Glazier
Directed by Lewis Milestone
A PARAMOUNT FILM
running time 96mins

"SING YOU SINNERS"

Song "Small Fry" by Frank Loesser & Hoagy Carmichael
Vocal arr by Max Terr

CAST

JOE BEEBE	BING CROSBY
DAVID BEEBE	FRED MACMURRAY
MIKE BEEBE	DONALD O CONNOR
MRS BEEBE	ELIZABETH PATTERSON
MARTHA	ELLEN DREW
HARRY RINGMER	JOHN GALLAUDET
PETE	WILLIAM HAADE
FILTER	PAUL WHITE
LECTURER	IRVING BACON
RACETRACK MAN	TOM DUGAN
NIGHTCLUB MANAGER	HERBERT CORTHELL
BANDLEADER	HARRY BARRIS

NEW YORK PREMIERE August 1938
British general release December 1938

Original story and screenplay by Claud Binyon - Photographed by Karl Struss ASC - Art Direction by Hans Dreier and Ernest Fegte - Edited by Alma Ruth Macrorie - Sound recording by Earl Hayman and Don Johnson
Interior decorations by A.E. Freudeman - Musical direction by Boris Morros.
Songs; Lyrics by Johnny Burke
Music by James V Monaco
Produced and directed by Wesley Ruggles.
A PARAMOUNT FILM
Original running time 89 mins
British 'U' certificate

BINGPICS - New Releases from The International Crosby Circle
******** ==== John Maughan
****** ==== I Lauderdale Avenue
**** ==== Wallsend - Northumberland
** ==== England

51..Bing in RUSSIAN HOLIDAY
52..Jack Manners, BING, Frank Murphy. Claridges London - August 31-1960
53..Harry, Kathryn, Nathaniel, Mary Frances and Bing Crosby - Hollywood Palace - December 1966
54..Special Souvenir set of 10 photos from THE BELLS of ST MARY'S - These great photos which feature Bing, Ingrid Bergman and many of the stars of the film were taken from German movie stills and appear by courtesy of Stan White.

All of these new releases are available from May 10th - Mat finish post cards at 10d (15cents) each - Please note special instructions re Number 54. This special set is also available in large size 10" X 8" Mat finish photos - and only to special order - the order list for photo set number 54 will remain open until June 25th - delivery 10 days approx from that date - special price for number 54 as follows - 10 MAT FINISH POST CARDS- 10/- (1dollar.50cents) 10 MAT FINISH - 10" X 8" PHOTOS- 42/- (6dollars) Photos number 51-52-53 also available to special order for the large size 10" X 8" - price 3/6 (50cents) each- Members please note that ALL orders MUST be prepaid - we are unable to order these special exp nsive sets on approval.

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that is if it ever get's released. But I can assure you that I have it 'first hand' that efforts are being made to issue it - I have no idea what the title will be, or whether it's presentation is the same vein as the ON THE HAPPY SIDE album. The latest information dated FEB 9th I967 states that the album is "not a Singalong" as I had first thought - but the layout of 24 songs seems familiar with the "Singalong" pattern, and in a letter to RENA ALBANESI, President of THE AMERICAN CLUB CROSBY dated July 3. I962 Bing states that "last month" (meaning June I962) I recorded a sentimental Singalong and a happy Singalong"
The "last month" ties in with the two recording sessions dates that I gave in BING that of June 2I and June 26. I962, as recording dates for the unissued tracks. The way time flies would account for Bing writing about the HAPPY SINGALONG, noting that it was recorded in April I962, just a short while before.
A letter dated Jan I2, I967 from Bing informed me that it was hoped the album would still be released.
From the recording sheet data I note that WARNER BROS were almost on the point of releasing it and I would like to point out that the recordings were done at WESTERN RECORDERS in CALIFORNIA, the only time SIMON RADY engaged the services of these studios for Bing to record at for PROJECT RECORDS.
On side ONE, Bing does not sing DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM WALKING and on side TWO he does not sing BEAUTIFUL DREAMER.
My publication of the titles for the first time has aroused very great interest, and of a nature ever greater than when I first revealed the existance of the RCA tracks recorded on JAN 28, I960, namely, ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU and THE NEW ASH-MOLEAN MARCHING SOCIETY. Let's hope the album finally finds it's way over the shop counters and that any obstacle holding it's release can be overcome.

BING SINGS EP No I - OE9466 ********* BING SINGS EP No 2 - OE9467

Over a long period many people have asked me if I can help them to obtain these two EP's which are now deleted - To obtain them is an almost impossible task and though I regret this, I am unable to help anyone - I do have two copies of each and all four records are autographed by Bing Crosby on the sleeves, and I really could not part with any of these. Two of the discs are still unplayed.
I feel sure that everyone would agree that if the 8 songs were released on an ACE OF HEARTS album along with four other Bing's not released in microgroove form, it would be a most worthwhile LP - Incidentally, years ago I was constantly writing to American Decca requesting more Bing recordings and a man most sympathetic to the wishes of the Bing fans was none other than Mr GEOFFREY MILNE of BRITISH DECCA he wrote me a very fine letter giving me details of the two EP's that he was releasing and I was especially grateful and pleased with the closing passage of Mr Milne's letter, which read;-

> "Decca Records Inc are hoping that this information will help to placate you, and I am hoping that this will be the case too - at least momentarily"

MATRIX DATA

For those who have often asked me about certain U.S. DECCA MASTER No's, the following letter from American Decca dated as far back as JAN 25, I953 may be of interest;-

> "...in my last letter to you I explained the meaning of the letters preceding the Matrix Numbers. This may seem confusing to you so I will go into this a little further. Up to a few years ago the letters DLA preceding a Matrix No meant a LOS ANGELES recording. At present ALL LOS ANGELES recordings have the letter L preceding the Matrix No. In the past ALL matrixes cut in CHICAGO had the letter C preceding the number. This practice has been discontinued and CHICAGO Masters have no identifying letter to distinguish it.

cont on page 42

****
**continuing*
CROSBY***
COMMENT**
****

With the introduction of Western Electric Sound equipment the preceding letter W was and is used to denote that this equipment is being used. For a short while WL was used to denote LOS ANGELES Masters. Today L is used alone although Western Electric equipment is still used on the West Coast and W alone is still used to denote Masters cut in any other American City.

PROUD POSSESSION

The BING CROSBY/ROSEMARY CLOONEY album FANCY MEETING YOU = was "customer" made for RCA at RADIO RECORDERS in HOLLYWOOD, just prior to the completion of the new RCA Studios. I am the proud possessor of the actual recording sheets or 'tape legends' as they are called, taken down at the time of recording these tracks for the LP - These recording 'logs' were kindly given to me by MR "BONES" HOWE who did the mixing on the sessions. His name is given alongside the column designated for "mixer" as "Bones" and for the "recorder" someone is identified as "A.L." another as"J.H." - the logs show that several segments of the songs were remade after a Master take was made. The notes show those'takes' which have to be edited with the neccessary segments of the songs that were remade to be 'edited in' spliced in where neccessary. The tapes were recorded at 15 i.p.s. - the works order numbers are given, the tape machine numbers - tape reel identification numbers and recording dates - false starts - and the Master Numbers are also as "spot numbers"

With the accompanying letter Mr BONES HOWE told me that on these sessions he had to obey the instructions of MR SIMON RADY who produced the recording - Mr Rady wanted BING and ROSEMARY CLOONEY to stand directly in front of the Orchestra(as in Concert style) for the purpose that he thought they would feel more relaxed and that the vocal performance would be less stiff. Mr Howe had his own personal views as to how Bing and Rosie should be recorded to get the best out of them, noting that Bing had 'bad keys' owing to 'duetting' - A most amusing part of "Bones" Howes letter centered around why he refused to work with Mr Rady after a hectic subsequent session for another artist. Mr Howe reckons the album offers great fun, which it does, and he thoroughly enjoyed the constant comedy that went on between'takes' with BUDDY COLE at the piano and how BING is so relaxed and a wonderful person to work with.

POINTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.....FINEST ORCHESTRAL ACCOMPANIMENT.....

What do I think is the finest orchestral accompaniment Bing has ever had? Well, owing to modern recording techniques and modern arrangements I'll say without a doubt that the LONGINES SYMPHONETTE provide Bing with the lush orchestral sounds of sweeping strings that I have always wanted him to record with. The best example I think is on the STORMY WEATHER track. The orchestra can change the mood too with swingy arrangments such as on COQUETTE among others. A great pity about these albums is that they are not available to a larger public or broadcast on the BBC.

Bing had other great backings, even in 1933-34 with JIMMY GRIER..LENNIE HAYTON.. and GEORGIE STOLL orchestra's.

==========.....THE DAUGHTER OF MOLLY MALONE.....

Despite the belief that this recording would never be heard on the BBC owing to the mention of the German car, Volksvagen, and noting that Bing's recording of IN MY MERRY OLDMOBILE is on the banned list - It has been played. A letter from my penfriend DEREK JOHNSON of THE NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS says that he used the recording when broadcasting the afternoon programme DOUBLE SPIN - the PLAYTIME section of it, some little while ago.

==========.....BINGS PRESENT DAY VOICE.....

I still think the "OL' MASTER" has got what it takes - listen to that great low note on MR BOOZE at the end of the recording. Surely, this is the finest note he has ever put on record. I'll always remember at SHEPPERTON STUDIOS whilst waiting for the cameras to roll Bing treated us to a fine rendition of CLEMENTINE and ending the song with a terrific low tone styling of CLE-HE-HEM-ENTINE

"Thanks" to KEN HOYLE (one of our newer members) for your correspondence relating to your keeness for "The Master" and how pleased you are at being among us - I believe you first contacted me after hearing one of my Bing requests on the radio.

BING'S ZENITH PERIOD.....EARLY 30's RECORDINGS.....

Someone asked what I thought could make one of Bing's best ever albums - well I reckon the following SUPURB CROSBY CLASSICS would make the best ever Bing album.

Who would'nt want CBS to issue an album containing the following Bing rarities.....

THERE'S A CABIN IN THE PINES..BEAUTIFUL GIRL..SHADOW WALTZ..MY WOMAN.. MOONSTRUCK..MY LOVE..SHADOWS OF LOVE..WHAT DO I CARE.IT'S HOME..I'VE GOT TO PASS YOUR HOUSE..LITTLE DUTCH MILL..WE'RE A COUPLE OF SOLDIERS MY BABY AND ME.. and LOVE IN BLOOM.

Harking back to Bing singing CLEMENTINE on the SHEPPERTON Set, I should also add that when he finished the song Bing went down on one knee in a jocular manner to emphasise the depth of things - A great piece of singing.

SONG VERSES.....

Yes, I too regret that Bing's recordings these days lack the verses that they once had. Bing used to put over some superb typical Crosby stylings in some song verses. The short, but to me sensational verse in the 1933 recordings of MY LOVE is a perfect example of how a verse could enhance a recording.

INFORMATION CORNER.....

This feature by myself was designed for inclusion in our 40th ANNIVERSARY issue originally, but was held over until our last issue - Frank Murphy seemed so pleased with it and requested me to carry on further with it. My first attempt was merely to help to create a real worthwhile 40th Anniversary issue and for that issue only. I have given Frank's request some thought and I feel that to make it a regular feature solely on my own initiative would be a tough task. The reason being that I am not an endless supplier of Bing Information - To keep INFORMATION CORNER going I would like to suggest that the members submit snippits of information for inclusion in the feature and an acknowledgment given to each participant - No single individual knows all there is to know about Bing, so here's a chance for the members to pass on any data they have. whether it's 'old or new' and at the same time enlighten others whilst giving members the chance to partake in the success of our magazine in some small way. I have done another INFORMATION CORNER for this issue and mainly created for the lesser informed members of our Circle - I do hope you like what I've done.

TRANSATLANTIC RECORD AGENCY.....

Mr Paul Mc Gowan of this Agency has recently informed me that the AMERICAN DECCA release of BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN on their VOCALION label No 3769, has not arrived on schedule in DUBLIN, for the very one reason that their suppliers have notified them that completely sold out of the first pressings they had - This is a very healthy sign indeed and the suppliers stated they were expecting fresh supplies but with a delay of three weeks. Mr Mc Gowan says there is a possibility that he can get hold of some of Bing's USA EP's and here are one or two worthwhile ones to go for.

No ED2057 I WHISTLE A HAPPY TUNE
Hello Young Lovers-Getting to know you-Something Wonderful

No ED2000 RED SAILS IN THE SUNSET
Far Away Places-Harbour Lights-On Treasure Island

No ED2001 SAMS SONG-Play A Simple Melody-Moonlight Bay-When You And I Were Young Maggie Blues

NO ED2107 DO YOU EVER THINK OF ME
I Never Knew-Somebody Loves You-After You've Gone

No ED2108 SLEEPY TIME GAL
Dinah-I Never Knew-I Can't Give You Anything But Love Baby

You might try for this one - Columbia BI521 CLASSICS BY CROSBY - Blue Prelude After Sundown-Paradise-Love In Bloom

.....CROSBY COMMENT.....
:continued=====:

Whilst on the subject of TransAtlantic - this is an interesting EP they supplied sometime ago - CROSBY CLASSICS - the titles are;= DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM WALKING. SWEET GEORGIA BROWN..A GHOST OF A CHANCE and MOONSTRUCK..No 429.I62.BE.Dutch Philips

FAILURE OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT

In the last issue of BING - Information Corner - I gave the information that an EP of THREE WESTERN HEROES had not been issued - In getting the data together I had hurriedly used a letter that had informed me sometime ago that the EP was not to be issued in spite of previous plans to issue it - A later letter that I should have used said the EP had been released and was of extracts taken from the GOLDEN RECORDS LP, AN AXE, AN APPLE, AND A BUCKSKIN JACKET, (A Christmas Story) - Now I'm getting older my Bing memory is fading a little.

COMMENTS FROM LARRY CROSBY.....*******.....

In a very recent letter to me Larry writes that the book he is attempting of his long association with Bing will be delayed. The reason for this he says is that Mrs Bing has also written a book about her husband and Larry suggests that he does'nt want to interfere with his book when Kathryn's is made available. An interesting point for me concerns the ADVICE TO WOULD BE SINGERS piece which Larry sent me sometime ago and which we printed in a recent issue of BING - Larry says that this chapter is included in the book he is writing.

The following letter may be of interest to members;-

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD MARCH I3.I967

Dear Leslie;

Bing has not been doing any recording lately.

I do not think I have any news hot enough to make print because this is the 'lay off' Season and the Studio is shooting nothing during this time.

Bing is planning on fishing in Mexico waters, and is considering a trip to Vietnam to entertain the troops.

Maybe the enclosed pass books we used at the recent race meet here may be interesting as souvenirs,.

Best (signed) Larry (Crosby)

))((

The 'pass books' were a great surprise to me and are a great souvenir- Actually they are blue and white cards, three in all, enclosed in a black plastic holder with gold lettering and issued by the SANTA ANITA PARK racecourse, for holing private Turf Club credentials. These cards are of a 'complimentary' Turf Club for Mrs Bing Crosby, one for Mr Larry Crosby, and a 'Life Member' Turf Club card for Mr Bing Crosby, plus a coloured car sticker advertising the racecourse.

:=======THE LONGINES SYMPHONETTE RECORDINGS:

For those members who tended to query the master numbers of these recordings as given by me in the magazine. may I please point out that the master numbers as published were obtained after careful research on two occasions and on behalf of one of Bing's personal officials and myself. Any individual Master Numbers (if they existed) were predominately requested from the recording authority concerned and also a recheck was made from them. The recorders have given the Msster Numbers (as already printed) on both occasions as covering the Bing tracks. They give BING CROSBY'S ALL TIME HIT PARADE and selections as identified by the title and covered by Master NO's LW(S)224 for Bing's four songs and the other selections. They give THE SONGS I LOVE as being identified by the title and they list the label numbers in heavy print - ie - RECORD No I Master Numbers LW(S)2I8 - RECORD No 2 and so on. They also give a RECORD No 4,but there is no label as such and a LONG-

-INES advertisement sheet also gives selections as on RECORD No I to RECORD No 6 including a RECORD No 4. On this LONGINES DATA SHEET the recording people have filled in No's LW(S)2I8 to LW(S)223 as being the Master Numbers, and against the RECORD LABEL Numbers we have printed what they have given, and we assume there are NO INDIVIDUAL MASTER NUMBERS.

**********THE UNISSUED PROJECT RECORDS INC-RECORDING***

Recorded June 2I and June 26th I962. For those members who have requested the Master No's for these songs, I will give these at a 'hoped for' later date. The Master No's will be allocated by whoever purchases the release rights of the tapes unless CAPITOL release the album, being as they now own PROJECT RECORDS in which case if they do, the tapes will obviously have Capitol Master No's.

In responce to numerous requ sts here as far as I know is a complete list of the Bing Crosby albums available in the U.K.

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING	LAT	8278	BRUNSWICK
SHILLALAGHS AND SHAMROCKS		8I06	
NEW TRICKS		82I7	
IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN		833I	
DRIFTING AND DREAMING		8334	
ANYTHING GOES		8II8	
A CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING		82I6	
HOLIDAY IN EUROPE		8505	
MERRY CHRISTMAS		8556	
WHITE CHRISTMAS		8044	
BING CROSBY SINGS		828I	
TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL		8253	
SONGS I WISH I HAD SUNG		8I38	
HOME ON THE RANGE		8I52	
BING'S BUDDIES AND BEAU'S		8306	
THE HAPPY PRINCE/THE SMALL ONE		8550	
A MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY		825I	
" " " "		8382	
these letter two LP's are from the original set of 5			
A MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY		805I/2/3/4/5	
OLD MASTERS VOL ONE	AH	I	ACE OF HEARTS
OLD MASTERS VOL TWO		I7	
OLD MASTERS VOL THREE		24	
BING AND THE DIXIELAND BAND		3I	
BING THE EARLY 30's VOL ONE		40	
BING THE EARLY 30's VOL TWO		88	
AMONG MY SOUVENIR'S		90	
MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY/BALLAD FOR AMERICANS		I30	
BING IN PARIS		I22	
CROSBY CLASSICS	RM	52069	CBS REALM
VOICES OF THE SINGING 20's	PMC	7006	PARLOPHONE
MY FAVOURITE STORY	SL	I0067	STATESIDE
HOW THE WEST WAS WON(two album set	RD	27I96	RCA
THE YOUNG BING CROSBY		27075	
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE		27I05	
BING WITH A BEAT		27032	
BING AND SATCHMO	C	844	MGM
BING SINGS WHILST BREGMAN SWINGS	T	482	WORLD RECORD CLUB
THAT TRAVELLING TWO BEAT	T	2300	CAPITOL
THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS		2346	
HIGH SOCIETY	LCT	6II6	

continued on page 46

continuing
LESLIE GAYLOR'S

CROSBY COMMENT

I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.....	W	I484	WARNER BROS
JOIN BING AND SING ALONG.....		I363	
SAY ONE FOR ME.....		7335	PHILIPS
TWELVE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS.....	R	2022	REPRISE
RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS.....		6I06	
ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS.....		202I	
BINGS HOLLYWOOD - set of I5 albums available singly.....		BING ItoI5	BRUNSWICK

======00000 This feature to be added to in due course

editors note.

(we extend our most grateful thanks to Leslie Gaylor for the above and other great material sent in for this issue of BING - the following important material arrived to late for inclusion in Les' highly rated INFORMATION CORNER - because we feel it is of special interest to all members, we hope Les won't mind if we use it to close this issues CROSBY COMMENT.)

I had planned to give the undermentioned data in the last issue of BING and it has been compiled in answer to numerous query's over a long period. I list the information taken from data sheets sent to me from COLUMBIA RECORDS INC of CONNECTICUT, USA and which I still have in my files - the research on many recordings was done by a lady who went to great lenths to get the correct data for me - she personally examined every recording work sheet actually taken down at the time of recording of the original AMERICAN BRUNSWICK Masters except the E series which were handed over to USA DECCA. AMERICAN COLUMBIA however hold CATALOGUE CARDS of these E series Masters which are copy cards of the original work sheets now held by DECCA.
I would like to point out that the original work sheets for these 9 recordings do not show at all whether the prefix letters JC or C was used. But the lady concerned made research elsewhere. She points out that she did not examine the original Master recordings of the 9 tracks but she finalised the data eventually as follows

TITLE	MASTER NUMBER	RECORDED
SWEET GEORGIA BROWN	JC 8592	23-4-I932
WALTZING IN A DREAM	JC 8593	23-4-I932
HAPPY GO LUCKY YOU	JC 8594	23-4-I932
LAZY DAY	JC 8596	24-4-I932
LET'S TRY AGAIN	JC 8597	24-4-I932
CABIN IN THE COTTON	C 8635	25-5-I932
WITH SUMMER COMING ON	C 8636	25-5-I932
LOVE ME TONIGHT	C 8640	26-5-I932
SOME OF THESE DAYS	C 8641	26-5-I932

Note;

LENNIE HAYTON's Orchestra is shown on Recording Work Sheet of CABIN IN THE COTTON but his name does not appear in the Recording Work Sheet of WALTZING IN A DREAM. A note states that years ago, recording sheets were not kept as accurate as they are kept today.

~~END~~

THE INGRID BERGMAN APPRECIATION SOCIETY
invites members of the International Crosby Circle to join it's growing band of admirers of this great artist - members interested should write direct too MARGARET SAMPSON, 32 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, England - the yearly subscription is 7/6 and among the many activities to take part in are regular club meetings and film shows as well as a very interesting Newsletter.

JOHN MAUGHAN and FRANK MURPHY to visit EIRE

On Tuesday July IIth, John Maughan and Frank Murphy fly to DUBLIN for an 8 day holiday, the highlight of which will be personal meetings for the very first time between GEORGE O' REILLY, JACK OSBORNE and JOHNNY JONES - it is hoped that it will also be possible to meet as many of the other Irish members as is possible during this short visit.

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A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH

Compiled by Frank Murphy with the assistance of John Maughan, Eileen Knight, Jack Osborne, Reg Bristo and George O' Reilly

It's many a year since a TV captured the heart of the press and viewers in the way that this BING CROSBY SPECIAL did - it was, to re-coin a phrase, a fact that our POP was the PICK of the LOT and the national TV weeklys, the national press etc went to town to publicise what was so obviously a great event TV wise. If the show dissapointed some, it would only be because they were getting a programme so much out of the USUAL rut that they could'nt really appreciate it - we enjoyed the show thoroughly, except perhaps for the pooms and the sometimes too long an absence of Bing - when he was on he was simply great and recorded beautifully - he looked a lot older on screen than he is in real life and the rather poor quality black and white picture we got in the British Isles would most probably be more than compensated for in those country's where the colour version could be shown - here together with some press clippings is our special ICC tribute to A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH.

BEFORE THE SHOW

(because of pressure of space only excerpts from some of the lenthy reports are being re-printed)

TV POST (EIRE) March 8th I967 "A BIG DAY FOR BING"
As a sort of curtain raiser to St Patricks Day, Television audiences throughout the world will see A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH...on Wednesday - One of the worlds most casual singers...singing in and about one of the most easy going countries of the world - A rare combination - and a successful one. As you will see when you take A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH on Wadesday.

TELEVISION WEEKLY (WALES) March 9th I967 "HARD WORK IN IRELAND"
Looking back on it, Bing Crosby laughs and says he can't remember when he last worked so hard, but, as he says, he was working in the Emerald Isles and somehow it did'nt seem all that much like real work. Actor MILO O' SHEA who leaps through a song and dance routine with Crosby reports "Bing's not as young as he was, of course, but that man's a real professional. A heck of an artist

NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE March IIth I967 "BING SINGS"
"The Old Groaner"-Bing Crosby to the uninitiated - has often expressed his love of Ireland. On Wednesday on TTT Bing can be heard singing Irish songs as he was photographed in the grounds of Howarth Castle, The Abbey Theatre and at a Dublin brewary

NEWCASTLE JOURNAL March I3 I967 "IRISH BLARNEY FROM BING"
Bing Crosby will be attempting to make it a great day for the Irish when he makes a musical conducted tour of Dublin - The Old Groaner's unique brand of relaxing lyricism has more than a passing affinity with the charm of Irish blarney, and Bing claims a warm affection for the land of bogs and leprechauns.

DAILY MIRROR March I5th I967 "BING SINGS A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH"
If you're Irish you will be welcoming the "Old Groaner" Bing Crosby, into your parlour tonight at 9.45.

Cont on page 48

 continuing-A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH-

THE VIEWER- March IIth I967 "IT'S A GREAT SHOW FOR THE IRISH"
Looking at times like a leprechaun himself, one of the world's greatest entertainers will sing and stroll his way across your TV screens on Wednesday night, carrying on yet another stage in his musical love with dear old Ireland. Ever since the day he discovered that his mother actually did come from Ireland (she was a Harrigan from County Cork) American long time crooner Bing Crosby has been un-ashamedly in love with the 'auld country' and does'nt care who knows it. He has serenaded his love in countless hit records like GALWAY BAY and WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING and now he's up to more Erin worship on television and at the ripe old age of 62 Bing shows he has lost none of his sure touch with a lyric, the distinctive style that took him straight to the top in the early 30's and kept him there making him a multi millionaire into the bargain.

AFTER THE SHOW
****

SUNDAY MAIL (Scotland) March I9th I967 "BING'S BIT OF BLARNEY WAS A TREAT"

A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH: Most entertaining hour of viewing this year, Bing Crosby's rendering of the old Irish favourites was a treat...Mrs M Combe, 49 Fernhill Rd, Rutherglen.

....As bright and fresh as Erins green Isle,the singing, dancing and dramatic poems came over so well. Dear old Bing Crosby was as good as ever, singing these nostalgic Irish songs...Mrs C Swan, 7 Auldhill Cres, Bridgend, Linlithgow.

....One does'nt have to be named McNamara to say;"The music-and Bing were simply grand...T H Conacher, 32, Easter Rd, Edinburgh 6.

....Bing Crosby is really worth a whole hours singing listening and viewing, his singing of the Irish songs brought back many memories of days gone by...Mrs E Duncan, I5 Dock St, Carronshore, Falkirk. (our thanks to Peter Monaghan for this excellent press clipping)

NEWCASTLE JOURNAL March I6th I967 "THE AMERICANS WIL LOVE IT"
Top of last night's bill on Tyne Tees Television was an item which had all the right ingredients to break into the charmed circle of TAM rating regulars - Bing Crosby's musical extravaganza A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH was loaded with commercial content - It was as good for Ireland as half a dozen glossy adverts in the colour supplements.

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The closing section of this special ICC coverage of Bing's unique Irish Television Spectacular is our tribute to the man who made it all possible This miniture biography of George O' Reilly appears by kind permission of our EIRE VCorrespondent.

BING'S FAVOURITE IRISHMAN.....by JIM EDWARDS

*** DUBLIN MET HOLLYWOOD IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY THROUGH A LETTER WRITTEN
*** BY A THEN UNKNOWN MAN CALLED O' REILLY, TO BING CROSBY - ONE OF THE
*** WORLDS MOST FAMOUS ENTERTAINERS.....

On a sunny day last year in Dublin a fresh faced young man with untidy hair announced - to the amazement of Ireland's entertainment circles - that his good friend Bing Crosby was coming to Dublin in September and had agreed to star in, and compere a £25,000, hour long TV film featuring Ireland's top artists.

Busy super stars like Bing tend to be selective about their work and the fact that he had agreed to spend long hours before the cameras (with Irish artists so far unknown to him) was a striking indication of his trust in and friendship with George O' Reilly, the man whose first experience of the intricate world of entertainment was as manager of a Dublin dance hall.

My Favourite Irishman-cont;
The film was shot the following month and to put it on tape, INTERTEL (VTR) LTD, and REDIFFUSION TELEVISION LTD, of London sent over a boatload of equipment and a crew of technical experts and producers to match. The show was the biggest independent television project ever launched in Ireland and the man responsible for it all, artists agent GEORGE O' REILLY, was hidden somewhere in the background, resolving or concealing crises as they occured - George admits now that Bing was worried about the film at first; "Quite frankly, I think he was just doing it for me but when he saw the talent involved and the experts - Irish and international-available, he became more and more enthusiastic. And we were blessed with beautiful weather, a big factor in location work - It was the biggest thing I ever attempted, though, and it may be shown all over the world - Canada, Australia, New Zealand, as well as America. It's a complete break-through for selling Irish entertainers in foreign countries"

George, a Dublin man, was educated at O' Connell Schools and runs his business from a set of offices in Pearse Street, an entertainment headquarters attracting attention of show business promoters all over Ireland and Britain. He manages DERMOT O' BRIAN (the countries top dance band money spinner) THE LUDLOWS, BUTCH MOORE and many more entertainers and most of them were featured in the Crosby film.

But he began his working life in a Dublin office where he stamped letters and "made bad tea" After a year or so he began moving up the commercial ladder and became assistant cashier at £8-10-0 per week. "I was music mad and Crosby mad" he says "I had all his discs-now I've about a thousand Crosby records-and one day I wrote a letter to himssaying how much I admired his singing" - Bing wrote back, George wrote back, so did Bing - "Incredible" says George's wife Kitty, "Something about George's letters made what I can only call a profound impression on Bing. When I met him years later he told me he felt he just had to meet this Irishman who wrote such interesting letters"

Finally Bing, in Paris for a brief visit cabled George and invited him to London. "Very often when you've admired famous men from afar, meeting them can be a bit of a let-down" George says, "but from the first moment I felt that Bing was as great a person as he is ab artist" - Somtime later, George persuaded Bing to visit Ireland his first visit to the homeland of his grandparants - "When we arrived at Dublin Airport thousands of people were lining the balcony to greet him" George remembers "A boys band was playing WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT on the tarmac. I turned to say something and saw tears pouring down his face. I had to look away. Until then I had'nt realised the emotional effect this Irish welcome would have on him"

From then on Bing gave George his complete friendship and trust, with no punches pulled. "He helped me every step of the way. As well as being a great entertainer he's a first rate business man and his advice throughthe years has been invaluable. As his friendship grew with Bing, so did George's interest in entertainment. First he was offered the management of a Dublin dance ballroon, later he became the proprietor of a successful record shop. Then, asked to manage a show band, he found himself becoming an artistes agent. In the short space of three years he turned his business into a £75,000 empire and is continually approached by song writers musicians, bands and singers who all see George as a gateway to success and money.

"This is the most unbusinesslike business I know" he remarks happily "People believe you can get by without a knowledge of music - beyond a talent for strumming a few chords on a guitar and without hard work. But any of the big timers, singers DERMOT O' BRIEN, DICKIE ROCK, BRENDAN BOWYER, for instance, can tell you that success is based on hard labour, long hours of rehearsal, close market study and first class musicianship" - He adds "It's a fickle business, too. Youmight spend weeks and months lining up a tour then suddenly the whole thing collapses and you have to start over again"

cont on page 51

"A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH"
concluded::::::::::::

Photo left;
DUBLIN AIRPORT-1961 - George O' Reilly (left) BING shakes hands with the former American Ambassador, the late Mr Grant Stockdale =

concluding BING'S FAVOURITE IRISHMAN.....:

But increasingly the triumphs are beginning to outweigh the disasters. In 1966, DERMOT O' BRIEN - 33, married and a father - became a pop idol overnight with an income to match. Dermot is a first class musician - but an essential part in his sudden emergence as a top box office star was played by manager O' Reilly.

The O' Reilly's have three children - Seoirse, who is twelve, nine year old Mary and five and half year old John. They live in a gadget littered semi detached not far from Dublin Airport - As an Impresario-which is'nt one of his favourite words - the image he projects is unlikely. He does'nt smoke, drink or gamble and he drives a family saloon. "I'd hate my children to follow me into the entertainment world...to much a cut throat affair. But I've been at it so long I can't imagine being an ordinarry business man sitting at a desk from nine to five. George spends as much time out of the country as in it. Just before Christmas he had tea with Bing and Kathryn Crosby at their San Francisco home."The children played up a bit, the way kids do and Bing made mock angry faces at them behind their backs as he made them apologise to me. It was just like home"

George now has many celebrities among his friends-MAURICE CHEVALIER..DEAN MARTIN.. LOUIS ARMSTRONG..FRANK SINATRA....his office is hung with mementoes of his meetings with the famous.

"A couple of months ago I was in New York discussing the colour version of the BING CROSBY TV film and at one top executive meeting in a plushy office I decided I was probably the only non-millionaire present-but here we all were- casually discussing a TV deal involving several hundreds of thousands of dollars. It occurred to me I'd travelled a long way from the dances I used to organise in Dublin to raise a quid or two to take Kitty out"

END

Our thanks to George for this excellent off the cuff article - the ICC extands it's thanks to you for being so vitaly instrumental in our being to see A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH on our TV screens - With the close colaboration of the ICC George is sending to Bing a complete file of the press etc coverage on this show

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THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE BADGE.....DID YOU ORDER ONE or TWO?????

If you requested your name to be put on the order list for the blazer badge and hav'nt at the present date paid for this, may we draw your attention to the last issue of BING, page 39 in which we asked that all badges be paid for by MARCH 20th; only the following members have complied with this request-Keith Hyde/Ron Horlock/ Cyril Duncombe/Ken Robinson/John Maughan/Peter Monaghan/Colin Pugh and Walter - MacKenzie - as a total of 18 badges are filed for order this means we await payment for 10 which is too large a number to order in advance - will those members who did order and are now on our file for one or two badges please send the payment by MAY 10th which is now the new and final date for back orders - other members who would like a badge, please send 22/6 by May 10th also and we'llsee you get one.

THE AUTOMOTIF CAR BADGE Orders will also be held open until MAY 10th - price is 38/-: Will all members please note that after MAY 10th the order list for both of these items will be closed and the offers withdrawn from the club files.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - at the closing date for material for this issue - a total of 26 members had failed to send their annual subscription in although this was advised by special renewal slip in the Jan issue of BING - because of the high production costs of the new look magazine we are unable to send copies to members who fail to renew promptly and these members will miss this issue of BING - When YOUR renewal slip appears, please renew within the month stated on the renewal reminder.....

********** YOUR TOP ARTICLES FROM THE JANUARY 1967 ISSUE OF "BING"

Thanks for a much better responce with the voting slips this time - a very good cross section of our membership voted in this final poll of the present series and we want also to thank you for the many helpful suggestions you added to the slips - Les Gaylor scored the most Number Ones in the poll and he was only beaten by the late arrival of a couple of votes for the Reg Bristo Columns - we want to say how much Les, Reg and the other contributers value and appreciate the votes cast for their articles and the ICC wishes to record it's appreciation to the people who voted in the POll - - - - - - - - -;- PETER WILSON..JOHN DOBSON.. LES PHYTHIAN..SYD SMYTH..KEN ROBINSON..MARY HUGHES..KEITH HYDE..JACK OSBORNE.. RAYMOND ELLIOTT..EDDIE RICE..RON HORLOCK..ARNOLD RECORD..EILEEN KNIGHT.. DOUGLAS BLACK..MICHAEL CRAMPTON..LESLIE GAYLOR..PETER MONAGHAN..HENRY HOLLOW.. REG BRISTO..PETER ROBINSON..BRENDA MILES..BILL BELL..FRANK ASHURST..MR F HILL.. JOHN MAUGHAN..GRAHAM READE..DON LOVE..MICHAEL SOPER..JOHN PURCHES..IAN ARNOTT..

and the favourite articles in the last issue as indicated by your votes as follows Number One scoring I5 points - Number Two scoring I0 points, Number Three, 5 points

	ARTICLE		POINTS
(Ist)	THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS.....	Reg Bristo.....	2I5
(2nd)	INFORMATION CORNER.....	Leslie Gaylor.....	200
(3rd)	CROSBY COMMENT.....	Leslie Gaylor.....	I60
(4th)	AROUND THE WORLD WITH BING.....	Frank Murphy.....	75
(5th)	WHAT BING CROSBY HAS MEANT TO ME.....	Ken Hoyle.....	60
(6th)	BRITISH REPORT.....	Michael Crampton...	30

Runners up were THE BING CROSBY MOVIE FILE (25) POST CHRISTMAS STORY (20) LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (20) MY MEETINGS WITH BING (20) THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE (I5)

We had planned a special feature using all of the excellent comments on the Poll slips - unfortunately, these would run to quite a number of pages and as we have now reached page 52, and with much material of a more neccessary nature still awaiting inclusion in this issue, we have decided not to proceed as originally planned - if space does permit before we finally close for press we will print an abreviated concencus of your valued comments

QQQQ

** continuing THE "TV" MR BING: **
** from the Frank Steiner files **

October 30th 1966

10.00 C-4 ANDY WILLIAMS-Variety-Color:

Andy welcomes BING CROSBY, KATE SMITH, ERNIE FORD and THE YOUNG AMERICANS. Ernie talks about his trip back home to Tennessee, and Bing recalls some of BOB HOPE's misadventures on the golf course Allyn Ferguson Orchestra (60 mins)

HIGHLIGHTS

Medley;"In A Little Spanish Town-Don't Fence Me In-I'm An Old Cow Hand-In The Cool Cool Cool Of The Evening-Swinging On A Star-When You And I Were Young Maggie Blues.....BING & ANDY.....
"I6 Tons-Natural Man.....ERNIE.....
"Who Can I Turn To?.....KATE.....

9.00 C-4 BOB HOPE-Comedy-Color

Chrysler presents
A BOB HOPE COMEDY SPECIAL
starring
BING AND ME
Special Guest BACH-YEN
"Miss Vietnam" with
LES BROWN's BAND OF RENOWN

Where there's Hope, there's often BING CROSBY, and when Bing and Bob get together you'll invariably find pretty scenery-almost all of it female. SONGS-Bing offers-"In The Cool Cool Cool Of The Evening and Pennies from Heaven - SKETCHES in the best tradition

Febuary I8-I967

9.30 C-7 HOLLYWOOD PALACE-variety-Color (60 mins)
Host BING CROSBY presents ELLA FITZGERALD-PHIL HARRIS and ALICE FAYE (Mrs Harris) Comedian, Dom De Luise - Sid Millwards Nitwits,English music hall clowns - the acrobatic Medini Brothers - and Hedrda and Ullott, an English comedy duo in a sketch about the R.A.F. BING and ELLA offer a Jazz treatment of Children's songs and in the finale BING, PHIL and ALICE sing a medley of some of her Movie tunes.

Editors Note-The TV Listing appear by courtesy of Frank Steiner of California USA - they make a very interesting feature and we have asked Frank to continue this much appreciated service

END

* BOB ROBERTS offers a first class copy tape service of all the great HOLLYWOOD PALACE shows - write to Bob for details of these and other important items currently available *

REPORT FROM ISRAEL.....SAMUEL STERNBURG

Today your kind delivery of BING and honorable letter came in and I want and must say thank you very much for your consideration. I hav'nt yet got through the whole vast material but it is interesting and much enjoyable. I was surprised to find myself twice here and there and I feel great honor with it. It gives me an idea perhaps I'll inform Mr Azaria Rappaport about mentioning his translated critic about Bing and RUSSIAN ADVENTURE. I feel he too will be pleased about that. I'll do my best to promote your Circle around people (will have to give that some special thinking) and let you know if anything new comes to us - I would like to mention about your BING issue that it is excellently edited and to me the English language is supurb. In a way very mature - someone not always expects from such publications and you should be proud of it. It will interest you to know that on 28-FEBUARY-I967 our national BROADCASTER (Radio) gave a half hour programme on Bing with the best of his early and later songs entitled BING CROSBY AND HIS CO-OPERATORS. Going through the record shops I can see Bing's album HOLIDAY IN EUROPE is now on sale and I was told by one dealer that it is quite favoured by the public - I think Bing is more liked than I thought before. I am enclosing some photos I took of the CINERAMA THEATRE here during the showing of Bing's RUSSIAN HOLIDAY

Great work Samuel - keep it up and pass on all the Bing news from ISRAEL - we are very interested in all the news you have to pass on as well as to reading your always newsy and interesting letters

"BRITISH REPORT from MICHAEL CRAMPTON

Dear Crosby Friends,

The last four issues of BING magazine have provided excellent coverage of the big Bing Crosby events. With issue number 5 presenting it'self no such grand occasion is to hand for reporting and you will judge therefore that this is only a partial report. Bing Crosby happenings in the British Isles are of course centred around our twice yearly meetings, plus BBC films and record releases when they occur, and tributes to Bing in the national press and musical weekly papers - for my report this time however I propose to take a leaf out of Bing's own book and drop nickles into what he describes as an out of kilter juke box - Bing says on page one of his autobiography that he is not sure what story the juke box will play back, so I'll just ajust the metaphor slightly and press in nickles and see what aspects of Crosnyana come to mind....First nickle and we have .....BOOKS ON BING.....

CALL ME LUCKY comes up first for discussion and I will discuss it briefly as with the other books, for those members who do not possess copies. I've seen two versions of this book. One a larger book, issued in America, the other a smaller book issued in England. The English version although much smaller than the American one, has the same content and both are 344 pages in lenth. The American book (which is the one I have) devotes the first 32 pages to photos featuring Bing from early childhood. Then follows I7 chapters of highly readable material as Bing relates his story to one Pete Martin. The story moves from chapter to chapter very quickly and it is easy to become absorbed with Bing's unique and fascinating life story. His command of the English tongue merits attention here and justifiably as his mother once claimed that Bing could have earned a handsome living if he had taken to the legal profession - the book is excellent and worthy of inclusion in any Crosby collection.

THE INCREDIBLE CROSBY by BARRY ULANOV - copyright I948.....Ulanov came to know Bing in I944, but received only a lukewarm reponse from Bing about writing his biography. By I946 however Bing was much more agreeable and an excellent tribute to him results in the form of this 32I page biography. A discography and photos are included.

In the I950's DR J J MIZE wrote a book about BING AND THE BING CROSBY STYLE this was a lavish presentation and is regarded by some as the best portrait of Bing's contribution to the world of popular entertainment. I have handled a copy of this book and would certainly like to possess a copy. In a recent auction, Fred Reynolds was lucky to obtain a copy for £5-5-0.

THE STORY OF BING CROSBY by TED CROSBY was first published in I937 and revised in I946. This is the edition I have for review. The story is told between I909 and I944-46 and lists Bing as appearing in 3I films up to that date. A Crosby discography is again offered but this is by no means complete, as THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY shows.

To conclude this small book review I mention a less lavish presentation than the above books, namely, BING by TED AND LARRY CROSBY - I935 - A copy of this I mailed recently to our Australian Representative KEITH HYDE and the book fills in the early part of Bing's career - like all the above books this is worthy of inclusion on your book shelf.

BING CROSBY ALBUMS.....

Nickle number two and we have the subject of over I00 Crosby albums for thought. I have about 50 of these and my favourite two are WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING and THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS. Undoubtedly the latter album is for me his very best effort in recent years. Bing chose the songs for this one himself and his taste is reflected in these great stanards. The backing is tremendous. Like a fellow member in a recent issue of BING my favourite late night disc is WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING, Bing made these songs immortal along with some other great Irish singers and I havnt heard better versions than Bing's. The COUNTRY LP incidentally is my only stereo disc.

Do I have an album which I do not favour - I most certainly do. I name the BREGMAN album as the least playable of my LP's and of course it's the backing here which puts me off. MOUNTAIN GREENERY is the only acceptable item here for me. Many collectors derive much pleasure from their IO" albums and I am no exception, but my favourite STEPHEN FOSTER SONGS, I do not have, this, as Bing once said, is a dilly of a collection - NELL AND I being my favourite track. Other favourite IO" album of mine are AULD LANG SYNE and the DOWN MEMORY LANE Volumes. There seems to be so much scope judging by the popularity of these IO" albums for DECCA to make them availble again - if not in IO" form then in I2" form with a couple more titles added to them. HMV of course have kept available their most popular IO" LP's available. You will also know by now that ACE OF HEARTS are to release BELOVED HYMNS and PEACE AND BLESSING in the near future. News of the demand for this LP has been conveyed to DECCA and so we now eagerly await it's release.

I enjoy all of Bing's EP's and would choose as my favourite the two volumes of BING SINGS and tracks that I like here are THE LONELINESS OF EVENING and SUDDENLY THERE'S A VALLEY. Bing's popularity I think would justify the release of more EP's than those we have had to-date.

A FAVOURITE BING SINGLE==========8

Impossible - impossible you are saying, to choose one - well, I propose to avoid this difficulty by selecting IO Bing singles which appear high on my list;-

LOVELY LADY..NELL AND I..JEANNIE WITH THE LIGHT BROWN HAIR..DOWN THE OLD OX ROAD.. HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN..MOONLIGHT AND SHADOWS..LITTLE SIR ECHO..LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TENDERFOOT..WHEN THE WHITE AZALEAS ARE BLOOMING.....I could be cast away on the proverbial desert island and be content with these IO as my favourite Bing's - 500 of course would be a better number - With my favourite IO Bing's named I seem to have run out of nickles for this out-of-kilter juke box and I must confess that I enjoy greatly writing and discussing out mutual hobby and I look forward to each issue of BING eagerly. The members letters and The Reg Bristo Columns form the highlight for me.

Finally, to those friends of mine who wish to obtain what 45 singles are left from the USA I suggest you contact the follbwing. RAY AVERYS RARE RECORDS, 415 EAST BROADWAY, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91206, USA - Ray is a dealer in collectors item records and will go all out to locate particular items, He has a large stock of Bing 78's and a fairly good stock of Crosby 45's - I hope this will be of help to you;

Till July - Aloa.....Michael.....

*** +)))))))

a n n o u n c e m e n t

"THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART IV" is now in the final stages of publication, and will be issued within the next few weeks. Proof copies have been circulated for checking and revision and all that remains to be done is the final collation and binding.

Most readers of "BING" will know exactly what to expect (and in fact have already reserved their copies and paid for them in advance!) but for newer members of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE, a short explanation may be desirable.

FIVE leading experts in the discographical field have been working for several years, assisted by other experts in matters Crosbyana, in producing what is recognised as the most comprehensive listing of Bing's recorded output. This task has been so vast, that it has meant issuing this listing in the form of books, each book forming a part of the whole. Thus Parts 1, 11 and 111 have already been issued and treasured by collectors and in fact anyone having the slightest interest in Bing's records, commercially issued. The first three parts are unfortunately out of print and in fact are selling for prices many times the original cost. Each Part is a limited edition ... only 150 copies will be printed and distributed.

At the present time, there are only FIFTY copies available, the first 100 have been reserved and paid for. By the time you read this, that fifty may well be reduced to about 40 or even 30. The point is, if you haven't ordered your copy AND PAID FOR IT, now is the time to do so! Because if Part 1V follows the same pattern as its previous three parts, Part 1V will be changing hands at treble its price within the next year.

If you want the finest listing of Bing's records yet produced ... write NOW to

RALPH S.HARDING
"THE CROSBY COLLECTOR"
6; Castledine Road, Anerley, LONDON, S.E.20.

SOLD OUT SOON

THE PRICE IS 10/- POST FREE. For your 10/- you will get an attractively-bound book of about 100 pages, including 2 full page photos from Bing's films, a special etching of Bing portraying the drunken doctor in his last film "STAGECOACH" and 8 photos of some of the labels of Bing's rarest recordings ... full size, and an index comprising about 670 record titles, recorded from 1951 to the present day. The fullest possible detail is given about each and every recording, issued or not ... master number, recording date, accompaniment, every known issue and other essential information.

WRITE NOW FOR YOUR COPY OF THIS ESSENTIAL BOOK ON THE RECORDINGS OF BING CROSBY.

DO YOU READ "THE CROSBY COLLECTOR"...? If you don't then you are in a minority because most of the members of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE subscribe to this specialist magazine. We are not a Club; we do not issue a "fan" magazine ... but we do offer the finest coverage of all things appertaining to Bing and Crosbyana including expert knowledge on Bing's films, records, TV shows etc., recording activities and everything dealing with the career of the greatest popular singer of all time. "CROSBY COLLECTOR" does not take the place of the indispensible "BING" magazine or detract from it. But subscribing to "BING" without having "THE CROSBY COLLECTOR" is like taking the Financial Times without the Stock Exchange prices or like eating pork without apple sauce!

If you are interested, send 2/- for a copy (and not only will it be sent post free, but you will also get a brand new published copy of Bing's famous hit "A MARSHMALLOW WORLD" sheet music embossed with a photo of Bing.) So don't be the odd man out ... write for your copy of "THE CROSBY COLLECTOR" now ...you'll be amazed at what you've been missing all these years!

We are in a position of being able to give you advance information on Bing Crosby releases ... for example, Decca will be issuing within the next few months, the following records ...

ACE OF HEARTS AH 139 "BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN"

Sing A Song Of Sunbeams: Little Lady Make Believe: Start The Day Right: Getting Nowhere: Brahm's Lullaby: Pennies From Heaven Medley: I Whistle A Happy Tune: Little Sir Echo: Teddy Bear's Picnic: Medley Of Gus Edwards Song Hits: Swinging On A Star: Sweet Potato Piper:

ACE OF HEARTS AH "BELOVED HYMNS" "PEACE & BLESSING"

RUDY VALLEE'S LONG ROAD OF SUCCESS

United Press, courtesy of Jack Souther-California: USA and Reg Bristo-Cardiff;WALES

HOLLYWOOD
The old Vagabond Lover returns to movies to reprise his Broadway role in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING. But only after the specter of BING CROSBY haunted him for the second time in 35 years - RUDY VALLEE will never shake off Crosbyphobia.

It was DER BINGLE who put an end to RUDY's reign as King of the Crooners back in I93I. And it was Bing who almost was cast in "How To Succeed" in place of Rudy.

Sitting in the BROWN DERBY with a bad head cold - which served to amplify Vallee's distictive nasality - Rudy recalled vividly the night of his great realization that the Groaner was top dog in the crooning dodge - "I was sitting in a New York hotel room" Vallee recounted. "All of a sudden I heard a soundtrack blaring through the streets at I0.00 O'Clock at night - it was playing I FOUND A MILLION DOLLAR BABY IN A FIVE AND I0'CENTS STORE - the minute I heard that voice I knew I was through, Here, I realized, was a great singer. I just wished I could sing like that.

Once Crosby's career began rolling on records and in movies and radio, Vallee's MAINE STEIN SONG, his megaphone, the wavy haired Yale look in blazer and ice-cream pants was out like Herbert Hoover - The Vagabond Lover was simply a vagabond... done in by the phenomenon of one of the truly greats of show business.

Rudy, however was not embittered. He took his shellacking like the well bred Ivy Leaguer he is. He lost as graciously as the the captain of a polo team. Through the years Rudy flourished as a sometime actor, night club entertainer, and sometimes even singing - the STEIN SONG of course and such others as THERE IS A TAVERN IN THE TOWN He also wrote a book, THE RUDY VALLEE STORY-MY TIME IS YOUR TIME reminiscing fondly of his days as leader of his own band the CONNECTICUT YANKEES-and the old HEIGH HO CLUB. His career dipped in the 40's and 50's but Rudy continued working in radio and occasional films. But in I942 he starred in THE PALM BEACH STORY which cast him as a droll comedic loser, adding a new dimension to his image. His most recent picture was THE HELEN MORGAN STORY...

Brought back to life in I96I in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS in which he shone for more than I,400 performances on Broadway as J B Biggley the pompous president of World Wide Wicket Company, He savoured the prospect of playing the movie version when the Crosby threat appeared.

Vallee, ecstatic at having won out over Crosby this time, says he will play his character precisely as he did in the theatre.

Vallee's fondest hope is to be recognised as a comedian. He has tapes of several of his personal appearances in which young audiences - who had never heard of the vagabond lover - break up in screams of laughter. "The trouble is trying to get the older generation in the crowd to shut up when they start asking me to sing the old songs" Vallee sighed - but it need'nt bother him - the same thing happens to Crosby

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OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO**********OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

PETER WILSON'S BBC DIARY OF BING CROSBY EVENTS:

JAN IST...Film GOING MY WAY	BBC I	MAR I5..A Little Bit of Irish	ITV
" IOTH...Roaming in the Gloaming	BBC Radio	" I7..Mc Namara's Band	BBC Radio
" I4TH...BE MY GUEST-30mins Bing	" "	" 23..True Love	"
" I8TH...Film SING YOU SINNERS	BBC 2	" 29..I love you Samantha	"
" 26TH...I love you Samantha	BBC Radio	APR 2..Film BIRTH OF THE BLUES	BBC1
" 28TH...Mr Booze	"		
" 30TH...Thanks for the Memory	"		
FEB I5TH..Happy Birthday	"		
" " ..Film ANYTHING GOES(I936)	BBC 2		
" 28TH..I love you Samantha	BBC Radio		
MAR IST...Film BLUE SKIES	BBC 2		
"			

****
* Many thanks Peter for your report
* unfortunately no other club member
* has come forward to support the
* Diary, but YOUR efforts are much
* appreciated - keep up the work.
****

"SPINALONG WITH "BING"
pick-up tracked by frank murphy

The first disc for review is the terrific new AUSTRALIAN E.P. released only in AUSTRALIA and now available to members of the I.C.C. by special arrangement of KEITH HYDE - Please note the following instructions carefully if you want to purchase a copy of this great E.P.;

If you live in THE BRITISH ISLES or EIRE - send I8/- to Frank Murphy by MAY IOth - On May IIth. the total order will then be airmailed direct to Keith in Australia - You can order as many copies as you require, but please note your order must be pre-paid, and please do not send it after May IO, if you do, we will have to return it to you - Keith Hyde will personally arrange for copies to be despatched from Australia - If you live outside of The British Isles and Eire, please airmail your order direct to Keith Hyde for his personal attention - But do not delay, as orders can only be met so long as supplies continue to be available and members of the ICC are asked to note that as with this and subsequent issues of rare material overseas, you can be assured that these rare issues will always be deemed a part of the usual ICC service to registered members - there is therefore no need for you to panic order - simply await the arrival of your current BING magazine. As we now

have representation in all of the countries that matter discwise, you can rest assured that arrangements, subject to demand, will always be made on your behalf for the purchase of E?P's or LP's of a rare nature. Now to the current E.P.

The re-production on page 58 is of the actual cover on the Australian EP, the very first time we have ever had a stencil made from a record cover - it has come out very nicely I think you will agree although the title IT'S A GOOD DAY which is also on the EP did not re-produce because it is printed in white on the sleeve and white will not reprint on an electronic stencil. But what a treat this record is, I've gone overboard for ALLOA MEANS I LOVE YOU - this is terrific Bing vocalising, and beautifully recorded with a delightful shuffling beaty hawaiin backing - all the local members who have heard this track at my home endorse my views - its great. Must also comment on THE MUSIC OF HOME as the first half of this track is to me one of the most interesting Bing arrangments ever - the chopping music, supurb diction of El Bingo, note the line, my favourite line, AND OLD CLEGGS COW..MOO IN THE MEADOW - as Bing descends on the word "MOO" - is there no limit to the greatness of this man - Crosby Magic is the only way I can sum up this track. If you like your Bing is super bouncy style, then IT'S A GREAT DAY and THE ASMOLEAN MARCHING SOCIETY will be for you. All in all one of the very best EP's to come along for many years - and all new material, at least to British Isles members - don't forget to RUSH me your orders for this EP by MAY IOth, every member must have at least one copy of this terrific EP in his or her collection.

BRITISH DECCA RELEASES - ACE OF HEARTS

Four new ACE OF HEARTS are currently released or scheduled for release -

THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY..WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAIL....ACE OF HEARTS.AHI30.released
ICHABOD plus MY GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER(side 2nonBING.ACE OF HEARTS.AHI36. "
BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN.....ACE OF HEARTS.AHI39.awaited.
BELOVED HYMNS..PEACE PRAYER and BLESSING OF ST FRANCI. " OF HEARTS.AH ? "

Both the BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN and BELOVED HYMNS albums are awaited for review and as they contain re-issue material we can dealwith them at lenth in the next issue, but sufficient to mention at this stage that BELOVED HYMNS is most looked forward too by all collects of Crosbyana and we extend a special word of thanks to DECCA for re-releasing it. But the two albums we have got for review are very important items indeed - for they spotlight an unusual aspect of CROSBYANA - I think I'd have awarded Bing an OSCAR for ICHABOD - listen to his great voice acting on this track and DECCA have re-produced these old masters magnificiently - Bing booms out on my Wharfdale speaker and I never enjoyed this track half as much as I did when this album arrived - the other side by the way features that great actor WALTER HUSTON in RIP VAN WINKLE - what a buy for £I-0-9d, as are all of these great ACE OF HEARTS releases - Note also the listing by LES GAYLOR in his columns of this issue - DECCA deserve your full support and encouragement. We hope that whilst in the present frame of mind releasewise, DECCA might lend an ear to our plea for a re-release of the two BING SINGS EP's on an ACE OF HEARTS album, I'm sure that coupled with an attractive cover these tracks could be a most attractive package. But we're not complaining - just asking and just to wind up this issues reviews, those of you who hav'nt got the BRUNSWICK EP OE9IO3 will be in for a treat when you get to hear THE PEACE PRAYER AND BLESSING OF ST FRANCIS, with the accent again on the narration side of Mr 'C' you will hear some beautiful singers THE PADRE CHORISTERS and a magnificient soloist FR LORENZO MORALES, we will deal with this issue at great lenth in the next BING, but don't miss it's release, this particular track has been in great demand for a long long time. These new ACE OF HEARTS releases, coupled with the exiting AUSTRALIAN EP with it's promise of future "prospects joined by the great progress and expansion of the ICC makes our Bing Crosby activity and the I967 scene so far very gratifying, as the closing line of an old DECCA record says "WE'VE GOT PLENTY TO BE THANKFUL FOR" and whilst in this "thankful mood I'll "steal" Michael's ALOHA.....see you on July 25th approx.....

LES PHYTHIAN reintroduces.....

CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER?

A Quarterly Miscellany
of Crosbyana

Let me say right away how pleasant it is to be writing once again under a heading familiar enough in the byegone days of 'CROSBY POST' but here making its first tentative appearance in the pages of I.C.C.s 'BING'. So many things eminently worthy of discussion have happened during the long, illustrious career of Mr. C (the range of possible topics is virtually endless) that the problem with a column of this kind is basically one of elimination. Exactly what to leave out, or postpone for future consideration, often produces a neat dilemma or two. There is no real intention on my part to establish a recognisable pattern for this feature; it is, as indicated above, regarded purely and simply as a miscellany. The prevailing tone will therefore tend to be on the discursive side, but if in the course of such ramblings I can succeed occasionally in stimulating a little unexpected interest here and there, if I can perhaps impart a scrap of information on some point of mutual concern, or even provide just a modicum of entertainment to help tide over an otherwise fallow period, then the venture will have been entirely worthwhile.

Not having had an opportunity to say so before, I'd like to state here and now how much enjoyment I have derived from the prolific jottings of Reg Bristo - an experience shared, I feel certain, by a great many other readers. Thoughtful, evocative, frequently introducing a new line of approach to well-trodden paths perhaps taken too much for granted, and at all times pervaded by the unmistakable flavour of genuine enthusiasm for his subject, THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS add up to one of this magazine's brightest and most welcome features. I admire Mr. Bristo's diligence, envy his undoubted flair and hereby extend a metaphorical hand in grateful appreciation. Long may his diverting articles continue!

For reasons made sufficiently obvious above it would seem unnecessary to offer any apology for devoting most of my remaining space to topics culled from Reg Bristo's past efforts, since the various points touched upon by our self-styled 'not so newcomer' are bound to be of general interest..... Reg discovered some time ago that Bing's recording of 'Kentucky Babe' dates from 5th June 1947 and was originally the backing to 'Whiffenpoof Song' on Br-E 03902, but in the absence of such information he hazarded a guess (Issue No. 3 - July 1966) that the song belonged to a somewhat earlier period in Crosby's disc career. The guess was based upon a photo which graced a copy of the sheet music he'd then recently unearthed (a copy which has since made its own small piece of history) and it happened that in this particular instance he was mistaken. This fact alone seems to me of scant importance. Much more significantly, the episode suggests (a) that Mr. Bristo is not afraid of throwing caution to the wind and following his own judgment even in an area where he feels relatively uninformed, and (b) that he is blessed with an enquiring mind - admirable qualities wherever they're encountered..... In the same issue of 'BING' Reg expressed the hope that someone might undertake publication of "a complete - or as complete as possible - catalogue of Mr. C's recordings". Since he went on to say "Dates, accompaniments, notes, labels, etc." it's clear that what Mr. Bristo really had in mind was a detailed Discography - and if, in July 1966, those remarks seemed a little ingenuous, older hands would do well to reflect that Reg, although an avowed Bing enthusiast since 1931, had only then joined up with The ICC having previously been out of touch with events and developments in the realm of Crosbyana. As will be plain from his subsequent comments (Issue No. 4 - October 1966) Reg now knows all about the Bing Crosby Discography, compiled by Ralph Harding, Geoff Milne, Fred Reynolds, Bob Roberts and myself, which has made its appearance in separate sections and which (insofar as I can say so with comparative objectivity) I think more than adequately meets the above requirements. As can be seen from an announcement elsewhere in this issue, Part 4 of this colossal labour of love is now ready and due to be distributed shortly - so that all of Bing's known commercial recordings to date have now been fully listed. A complete documentation of his work in the movies is in active preparation and will be followed later on by a biographical compilation conceived along unusual lines. Finally, a section covering Bing's non-commercial output (including radio and television shows) will see the culmination of a quite tremendous though profoundly satisfying task which will have involved a staggering amount of

research and sheer hard labour, the hopeful beginnings of which go back more years than any member of the team concerned cares to remember, except perhaps under pressure! But no, not exactly the culmination at that. When the last of its constituent parts eventually sees the light of day arrangements will be put in hand for the entire work to be printed in permanent book form and published. And that, when it happens, will be the real crowning achievement.

I'm not sure whether anyone else has dealt with your 'St. Louis Blues' query, Reg, but at all events you are correct in surmising that the wonderful sound behind Bing's never-to-be-forgotten version of the W. C. Handy classic was provided by Duke Ellington and his Orchestra, recorded 11th February 1932. The only other known occasion when Bing similarly worked with Ellington had been on 26th August 1930 when, as one of the Rhythm Boys, he shared vocal honours on Duke's recording of 'Three Little Words'.....I understand your sense of frustration at the absence of relevant information on some album sleeves and cannot decide which is the more annoying - this, or the quantity of incorrect and misleading data too often put out by people who by now ought to know better. Happily for our peace of mind there are some notable exceptions in this field who are methodical in their approach and, within limits frequently imposed by 'outside' considerations, pleasingly consistent in their policy.

How very true it is, by the way, that so many of the best-loved songs of yesteryear gained immeasurably in stature from such a simple device as the inclusion of a verse - often every bit as imaginative and tuneful as the chorus itself, and, as Reg rightly remarks, setting the scene, establishing the mood, investing the whole recording with a satisfying 'completeness' not otherwise so strongly felt. Further shining examples recalled at random from the early Crosby repertoire are 'Thanks', 'Love in Bloom' (short but highly effective 'mood' verses on those two), 'Down the Old Ox Road', 'Black Moonlight', 'Cabin in the Pines', 'Shadow Waltz', 'Learn To Croon', 'June in January', 'Moonburn' and - a beautifully conceived verse in every way - 'Pennies From Heaven'. A truly outstanding demonstration of this point is surely to be found in 'Stardust', which has a verse of such ravishing melodic beauty that even Hoagy Carmichael's fertile imagination must have been severely taxed to find a chorus worthy of following it! That he succeeded in doing so, and to such memorable effect, is now a commonplace of musical history - but it still seems to me a pretty rare accomplishment.

To Mr. Bristo's paragraph about song lyrics containing a reference to Bing I would add Eddie Cantor's number 'When My Ship Comes In', from the movie 'KID MILLIONS', wherein these delightful lines occur:-

"In golden chairs we'll sip our tea for two,
I'll have Paul Whiteman there to play for you,
I'll have Bing Crosby singing 'boo-boo-boo',
When my ship comes in".

Mention of Jimmy Durante's 'Inka Dinka Doo' reminds me that on an earlier recording of his famous signature tune the irrepressible James launches into a series of 'boo-boo-boos', throws in the repeated observation "Just a crooner! Just a crooner!", whistles a short phrase, laughs with customary gay abandon, then remarks "There's a little bit of Bing Crosby in me"! Another item that should certainly be noted in this connection is that not too many years ago Capitol released a 'single' by Dean Martin which actually bore the title 'If I Could Sing Like Bing', a rather nice tribute to the 'Old Master' from one of his more celebrated disciples.

Yes Reg, the 'Blue Hawaii' album is indeed a gem - every track an arresting illustration of the art of popular singing at an almost constant level of perfection; and this says much for the consistency of Bing's vocal quality when one recalls that the material was gathered from various sessions spanning the years 1936-40. I well understand your reaction to such a fine collection of songs and I'm willing to bet that this LP is destined to receive many, many future spins when other quite worthy efforts of more recent vintage have been relegated to longer spells in the comparative limbo of your record shelves.....Finally (for the present, that is) I'm afraid you'll search in vain for a commercial disc by Bing of that haunting pre-war tune 'Auf Weidersehn'. The only time he recorded this great number was for the soundtrack of Mack Sennett's 1931 'featurette' 'THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT', from which the television snippet you mention was taken.

Which leaves me just about enough space to enquire if Jack Shaw has a match?

LES PHYTHIAN

THE HORSE TOLD ME

Words by JOHNNY BURKE · Music by JAMES VAN HEUSEN

I.C.C. DISC RELEASE = ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the release of a new E.P. Pressing of further unnisued tracks by Bing - details as follows;-

I.C.C. Vol 6 = BING CROSBY IN THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE Vol One -

Side One= Intro-announcer"And now from the Hollywood Palace your New Years Eve Host, Bing Crosby" - Bing leads in with "Cabaret" a delightful swinger. (2mins

CLOSING DATE FOR ORDERS MAY 25th DELIVERY IO DAYS LATER

Our second song on side One is the currently very popular number SUNRISE SUNSET, Bing gives this number the full Crosby treatment - it needs no further recomendation. (2¾mins)

Side Two = Joined by a vocal group that sounds very much like the Mills Brothers and French singer Charles Aznavour, Bing is in tremendous form as he reprises Frank Sinatra's hit's - STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT and THAT'S LIFE. (I¾mins)

PRICE:
21/- each (Ø3)
Plus 3/- postage (50cents) No extra postage on second and subsequent copies

To close side two we have another intro from the announcer "And now from the Hollywood Palace your host the incomparable Bing Crosby, Bing leads in with a great bouncer THEM WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS (2½mins)

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Members are reminded that as these private ICC releases are strictly limited issues only, no further orders can be considered once the closing date as stated is reached - in this case, your order, prepaid must reach Frank Murphy not later than MAY 25th

Members are requested to give this project their full support by purchasing more than one copy of these special releases - the next issue in this series ICC Vol 7 BING CROSBY IN THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE Vol 2 will feature further great items from these shows incl - medley's featuring BING with ELLA FITZGERALD, ALICE FAYE and PHIL HARRIS - Details of this JULY 25 issue in the next BING magazine.